

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.
143 US \$2.19



SEGA®

SONIC™

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE HEDGEHOG

A TRAITOR WITHIN...

...TROUBLE FOR
SONIC?!

-BUTLER
-AMASH
-RAY '04

14311>



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DIRECT EDITION

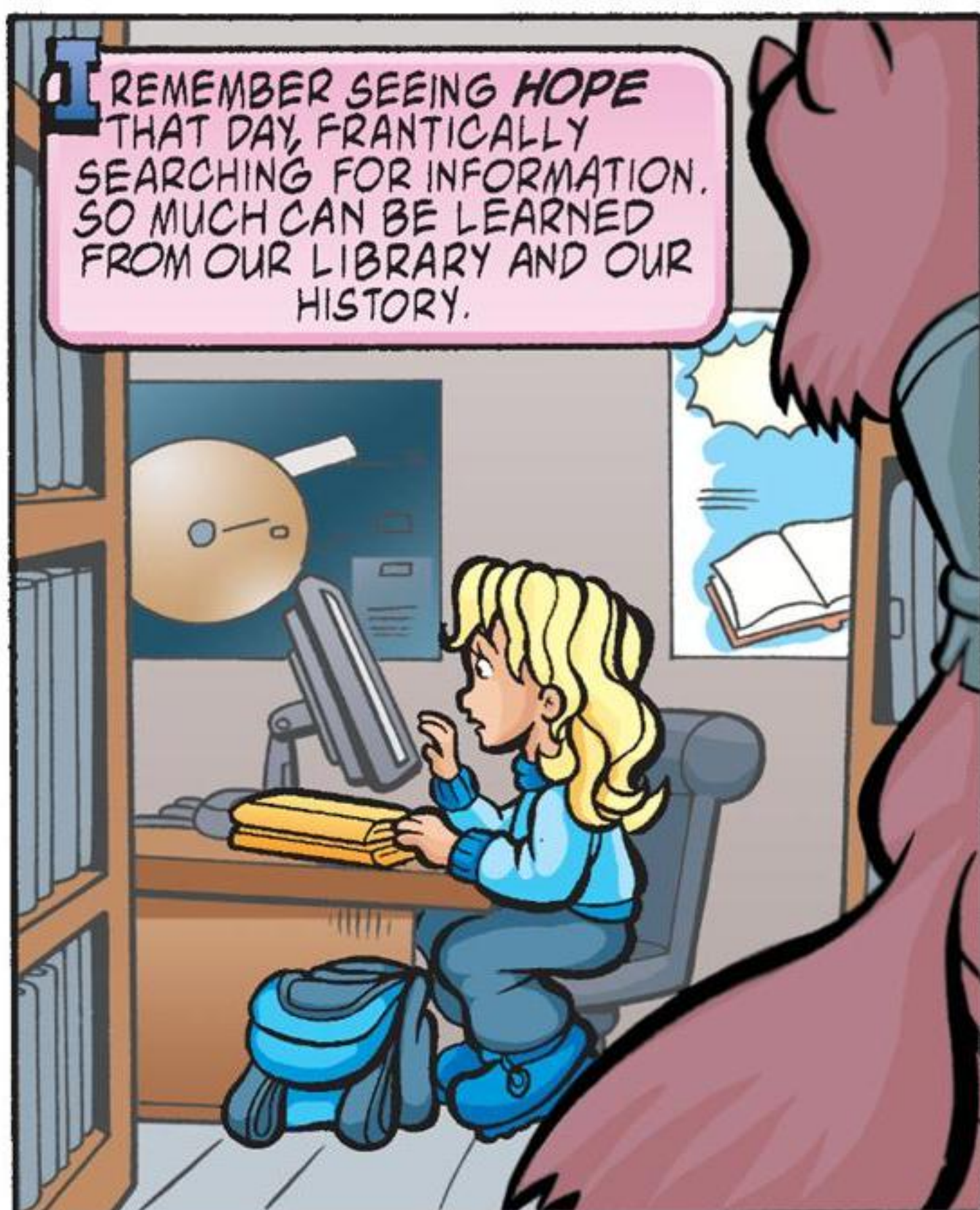




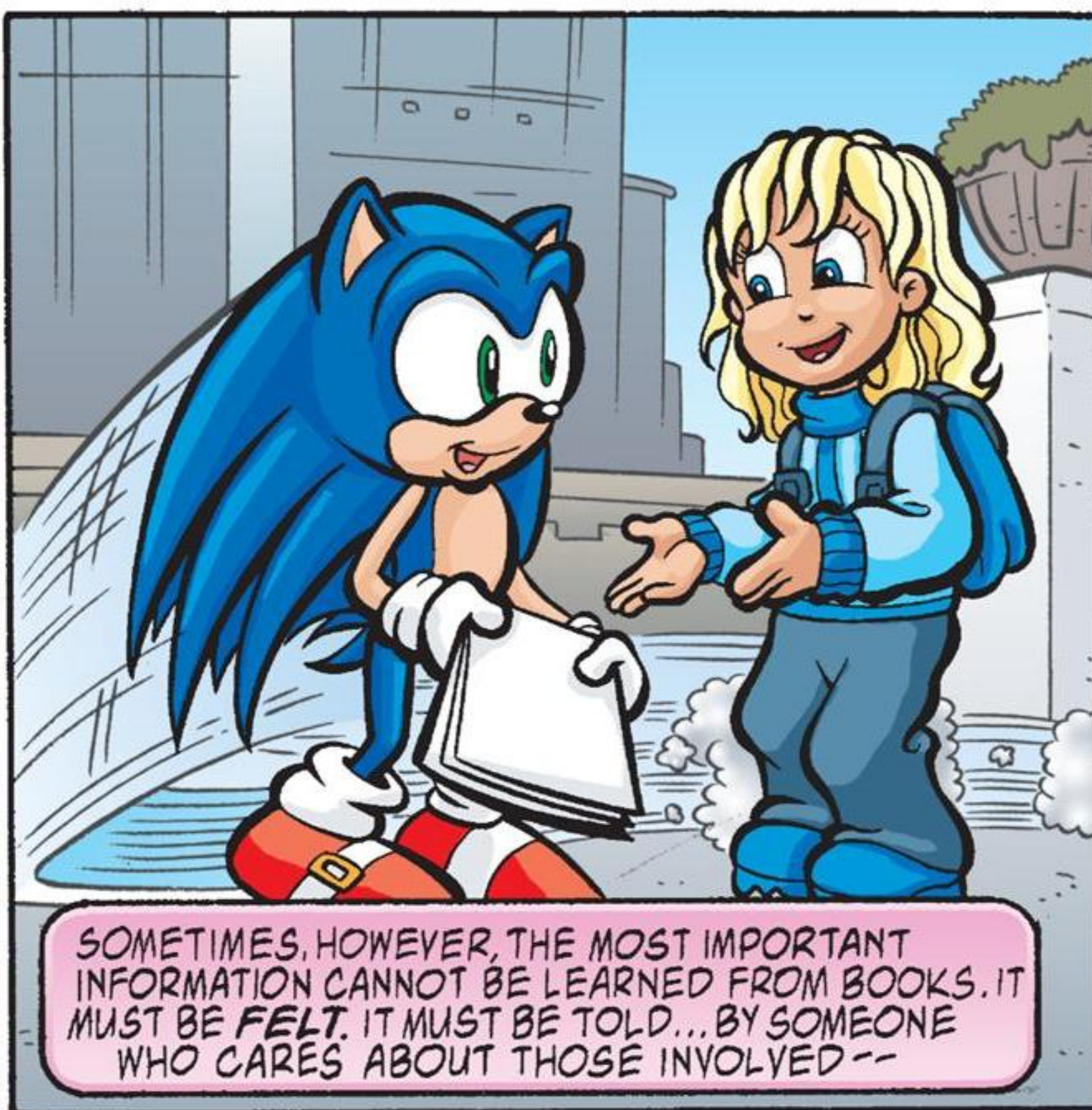
**WHEN ROBOTNIK FIRST ROSE TO POWER,
ONLY THE BRAVEST STOOD AGAINST
HIS TYRANNICAL RULE. THUS, THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE FORMED
TO DEFEND AND INSPIRE THOSE AROUND THEM.
UNTIL...**

**THE FATEFUL DAY WHEN THEY
WERE BETRAYED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN!**

THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS



I REMEMBER SEEING HOPE THAT DAY, FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION. SO MUCH CAN BE LEARNED FROM OUR LIBRARY AND OUR HISTORY.



SOMETIMES, HOWEVER, THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION CANNOT BE LEARNED FROM BOOKS. IT MUST BE **FELT**. IT MUST BE TOLD... BY SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT THOSE INVOLVED--



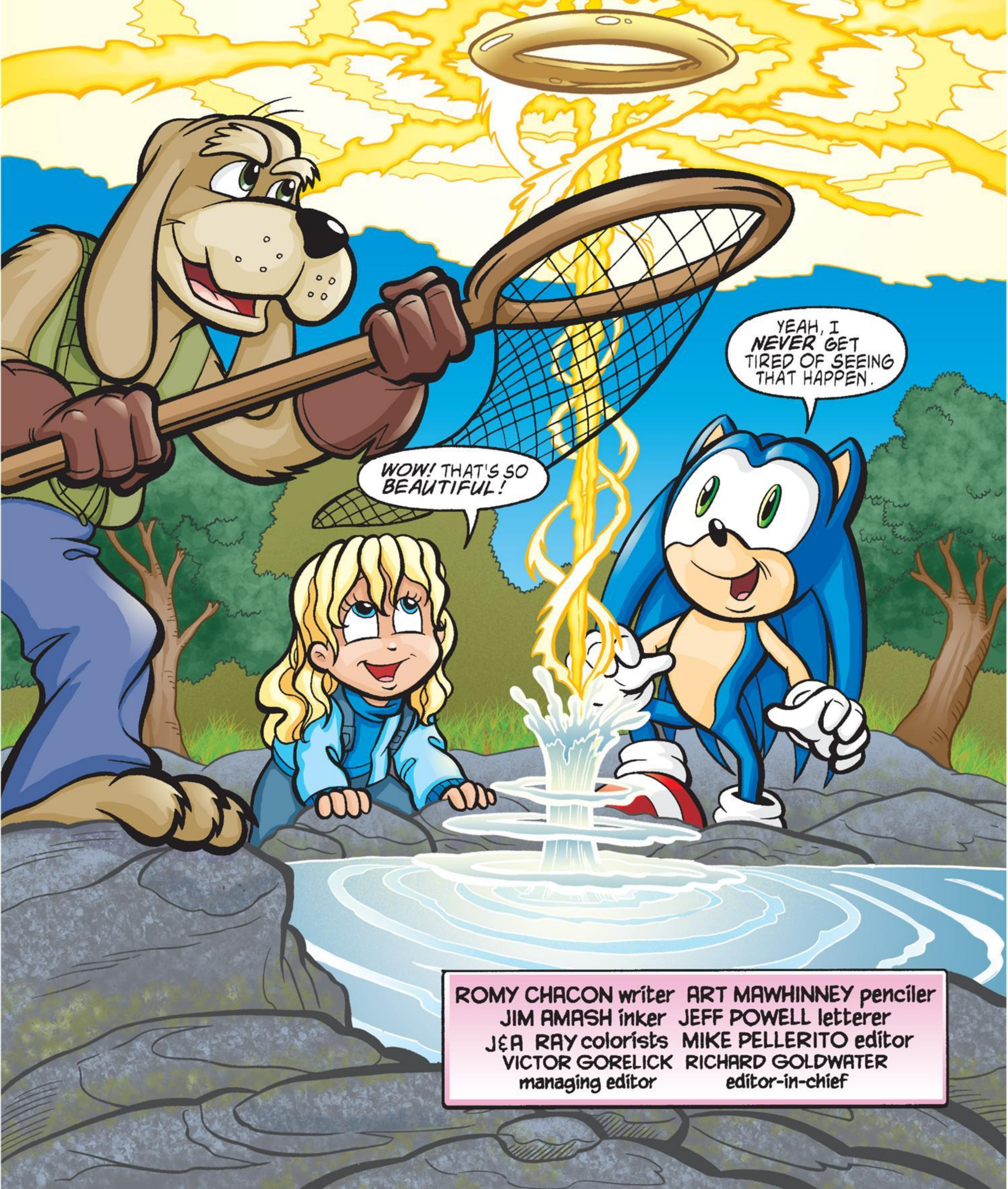
--NOT JUST THE INFORMATION ITSELF.

SO WITH THE **LAKE OF RINGS** AS THE BACKDROP, I LATER LEARNED SONIC TOLD HOPE HOW HE **FELT** ABOUT **COL. STRIPE** AND THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS--



--AND HOW THEY HAD **FALLEN**... BETRAYED BY ONE FROM WITHIN.

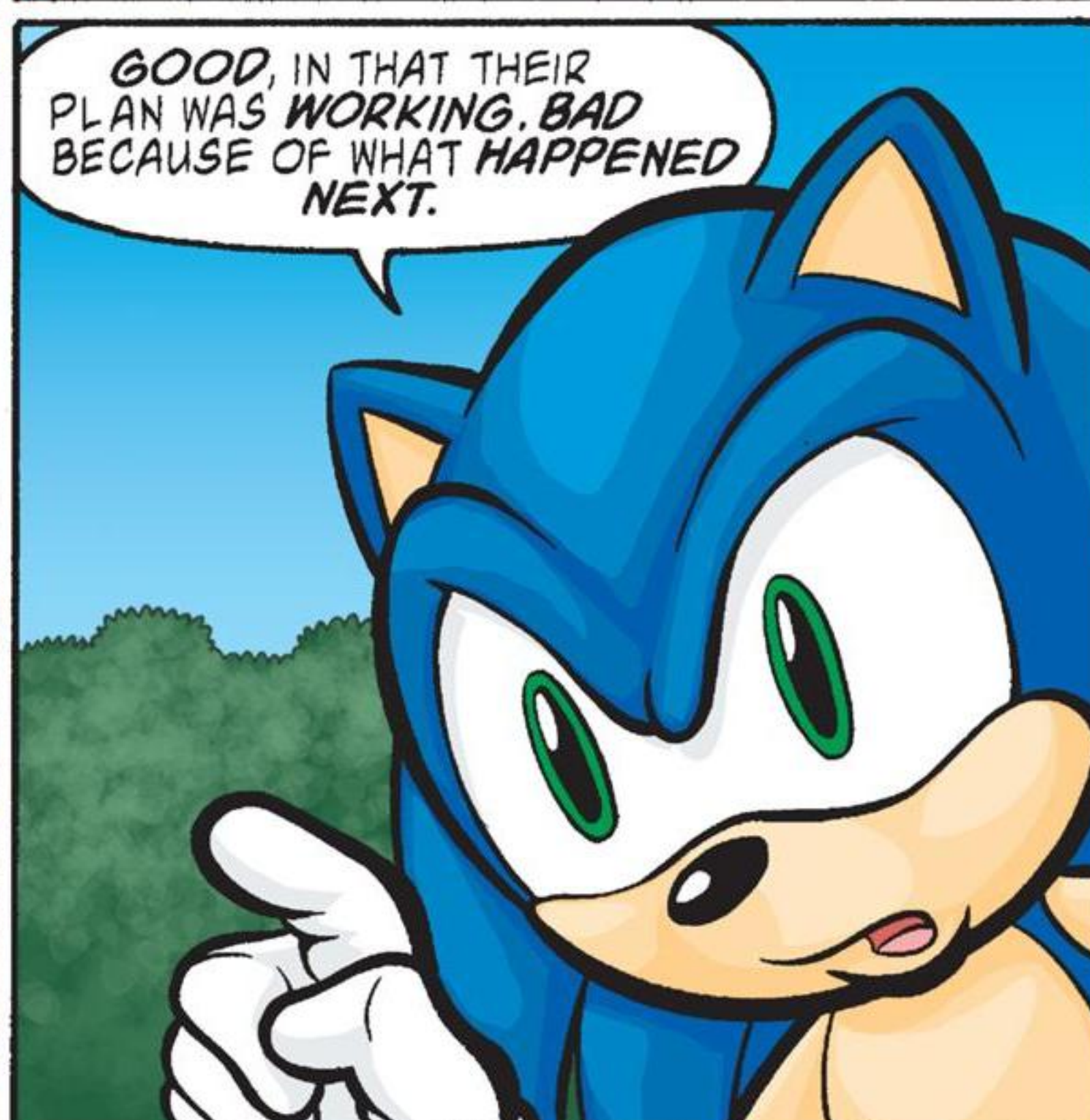
THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS PART 2

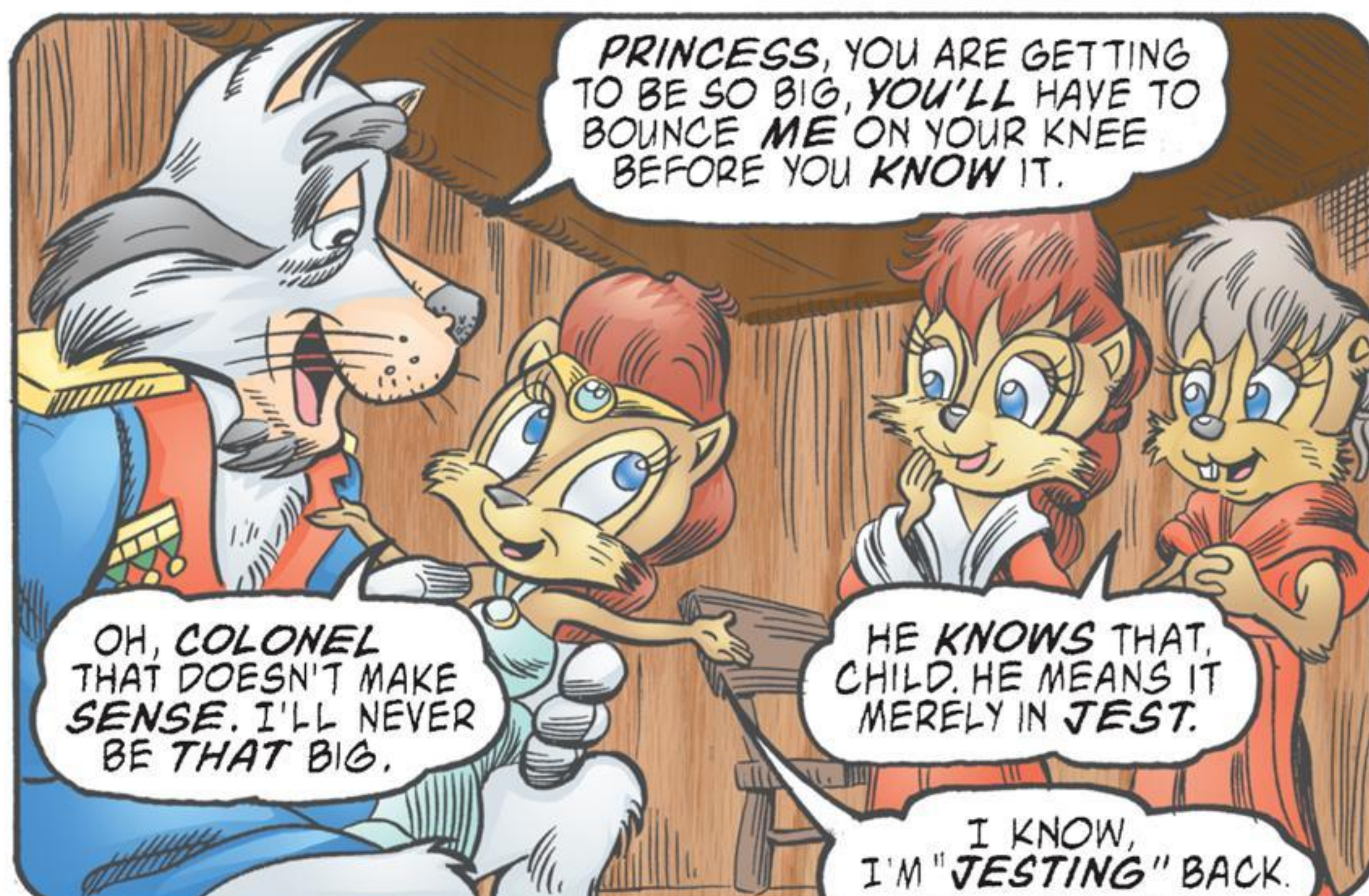


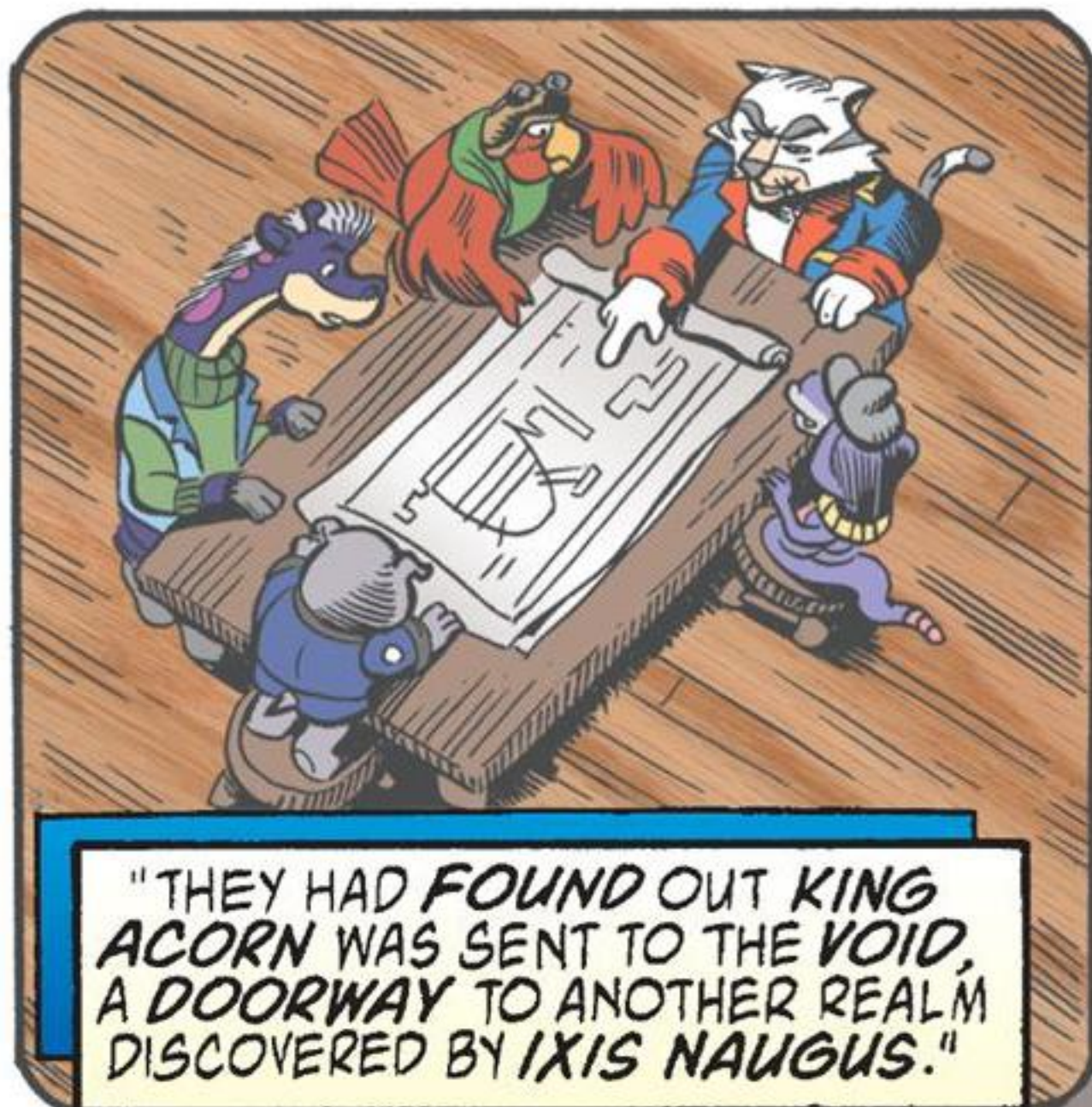
WOW! THAT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL!

YEAH, I
NEVER GET
TIRED OF SEEING
THAT HAPPEN.

ROMY CHACON writer ART MAWHINNEY penciler
JIM AMASH inker JEFF POWELL letterer
J&A RAY colorists MIKE PELLERITO editor
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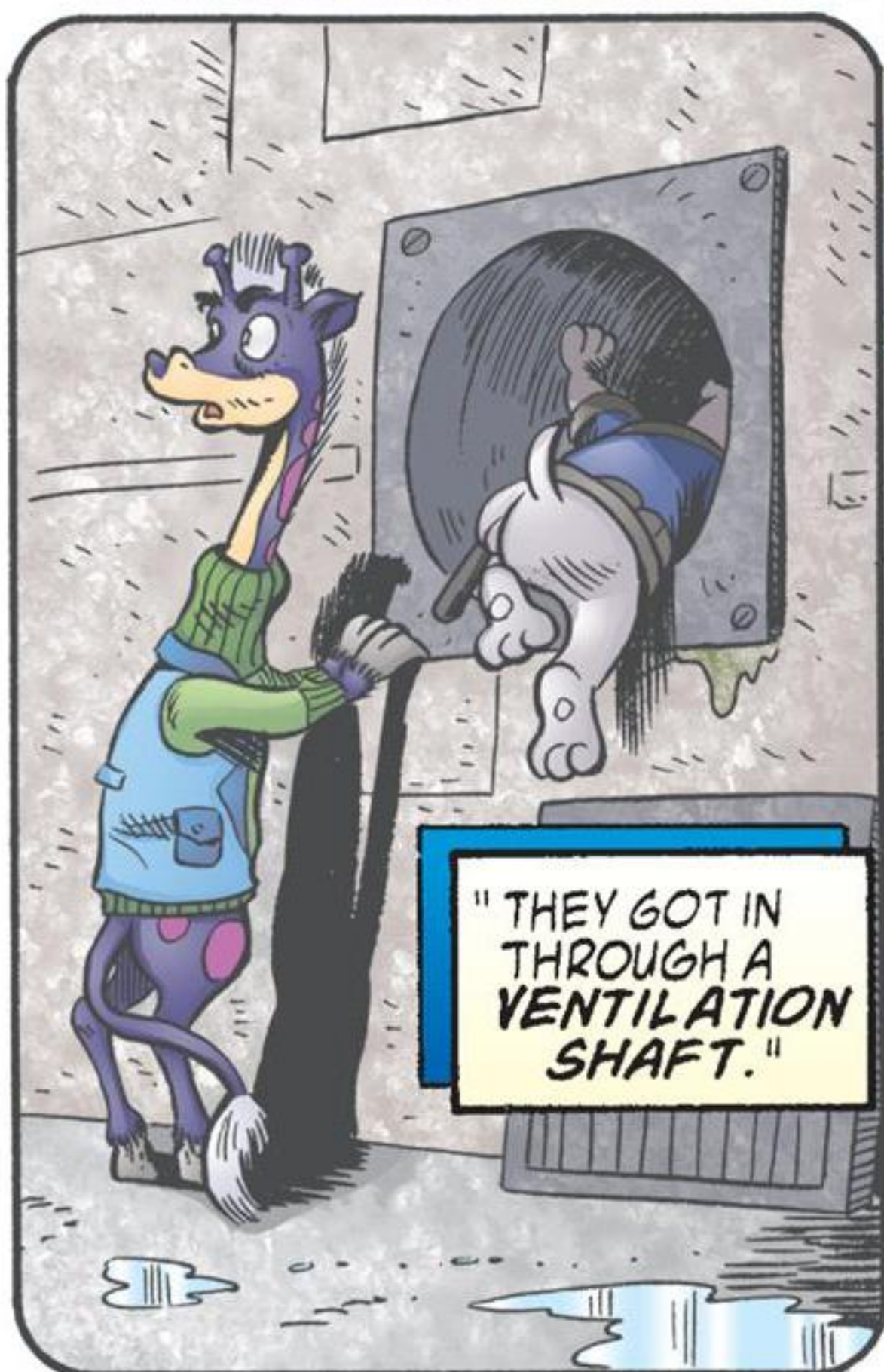


"THEY HAD **FOUND** OUT KING ACORN WAS SENT TO THE VOID, A **DOORWAY** TO ANOTHER REALM DISCOVERED BY IXIS NAUGUS."

"IT WAS LOCATED **DEEP** IN THE KING'S OLD CASTLE, NOW **ROBOTNIK'S HQ.**"



"THEY **PLANNED** TO GET IN UNDETECTED, **FIND** THE DOORWAY AND **FREE** THE KING FROM THE VOID."



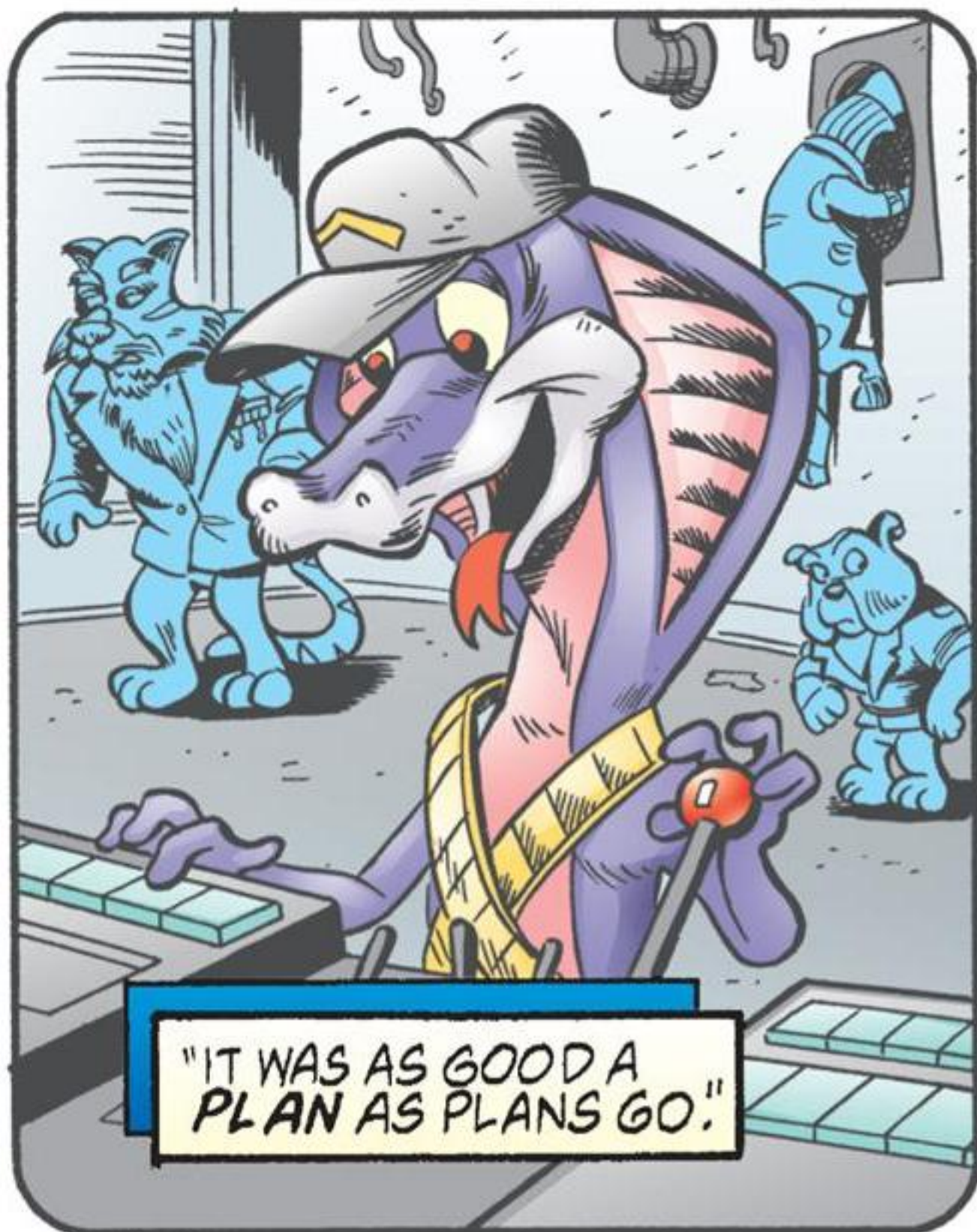
"THEY GOT IN THROUGH A **VENTILATION SHAFT.**"



"THE OUTSIDE LOOKED **NOTHING** LIKE THE OLD ACORN'S CASTLE, HOWEVER, THE INTERIOR'S **INFRA-STRUCTURE** HAD NOT **CHANGED** AS DRASTICALLY."



GENTLEMEN,
WE'RE IN.



"IT WAS AS GOOD A **PLAN** AS PLANS GO."



"BUT LIKE **ANY** GOOD PLAN..."



BECAUSE DR. ROBOTNIK GAVE ME... POWER AND CONTROL. BESIDES, I'M A SNAKE. IT'S TOTALLY WITHIN MY NATURE.

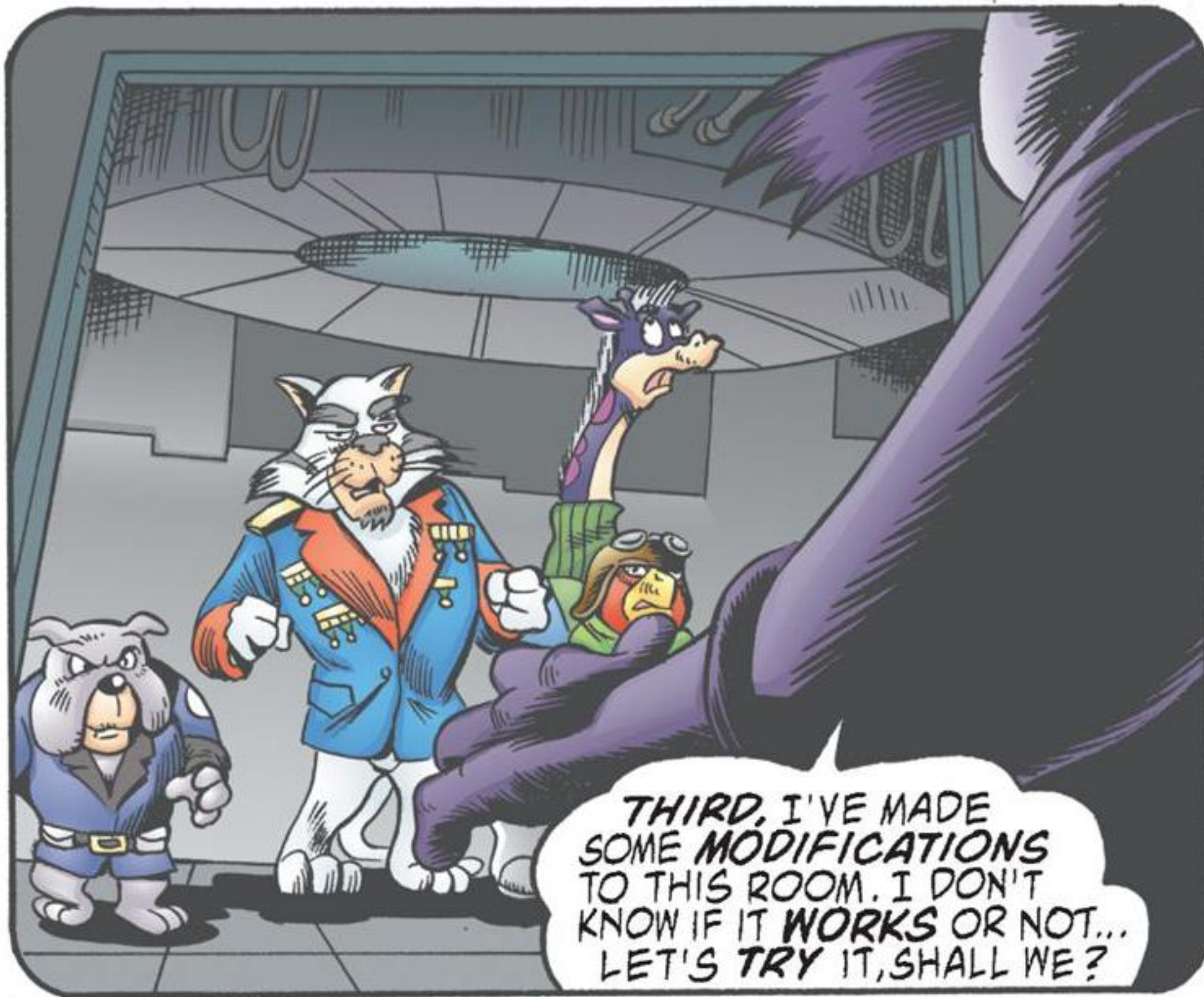


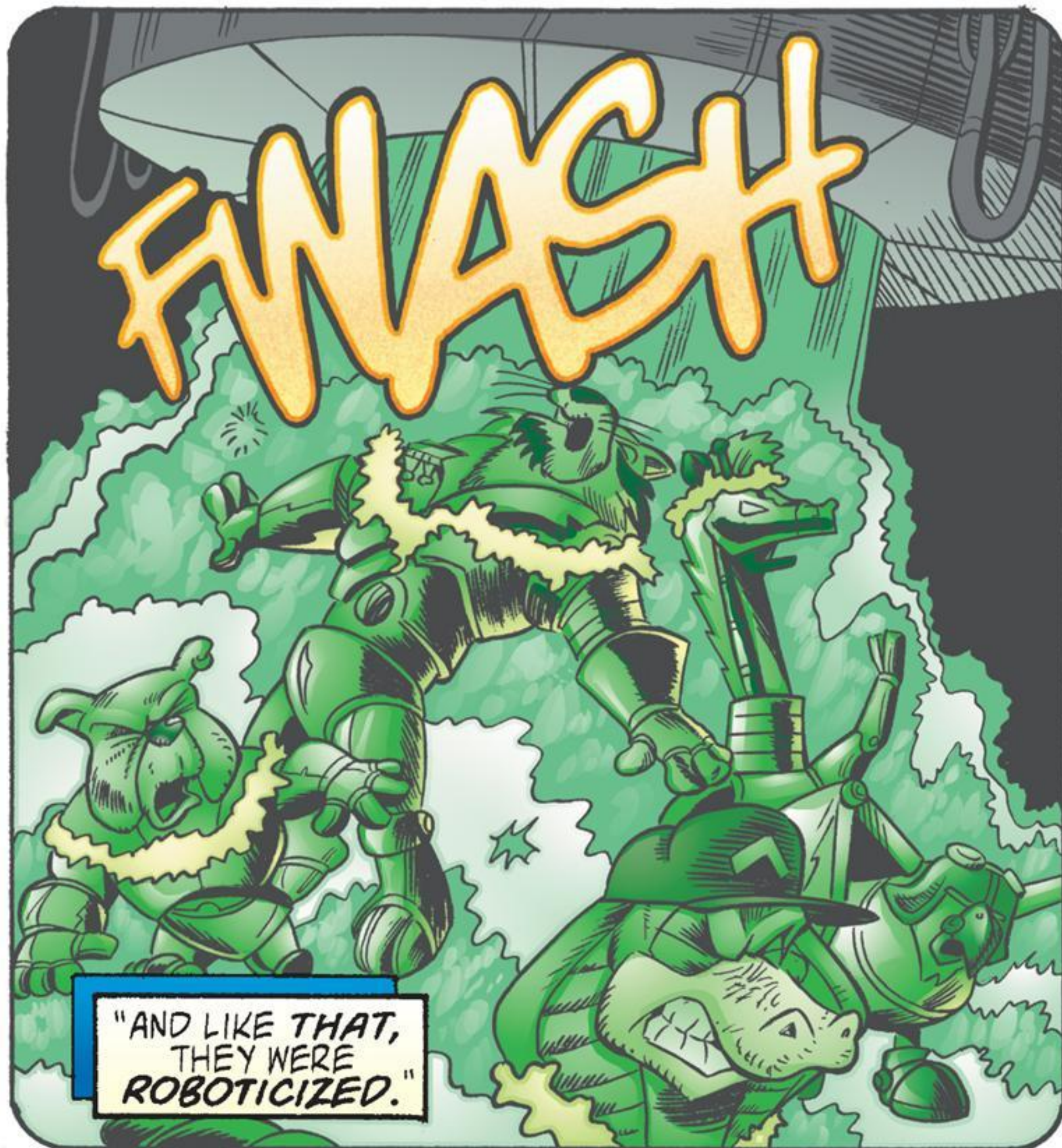
SO YOU GOT US WHERE YOU WANT US, JULIAN. NOW WHAT?

FIRST, ADDRESS ME AS DR. ROBOTNIK.



SECOND, I MUST SAY, YOU WERE STARTING TO BECOME A REAL THORN. LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO DO SOME PLANTING MYSELF.





"AND LIKE THAT,
THEY WERE
ROBOTICIZED."



"THEN ROBOTNIK
OPENED THE VOID."



"AND THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM
FIGHTERS WERE SUCKED
THROUGH THE VOID, JUST
LIKE THEIR KING."

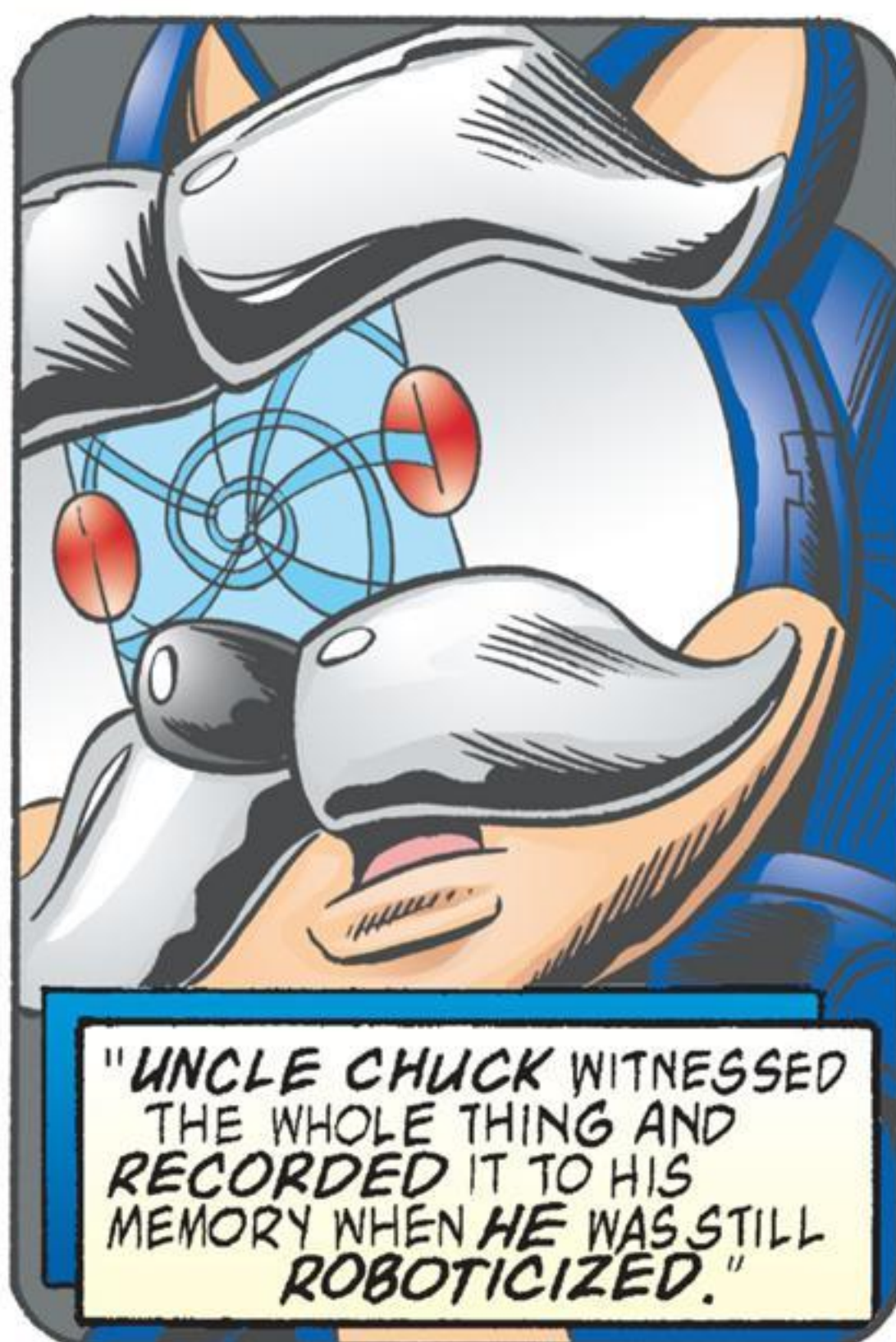
*From the now classic SONIC #43.



"OF COURSE, WE
LEARNED THIS ALL
YEARS LATER."



SIR CHARLES, I
COMMAND YOU TO
THE VOID. I'M OFF TO
MORE IMPORTANT
THINGS...

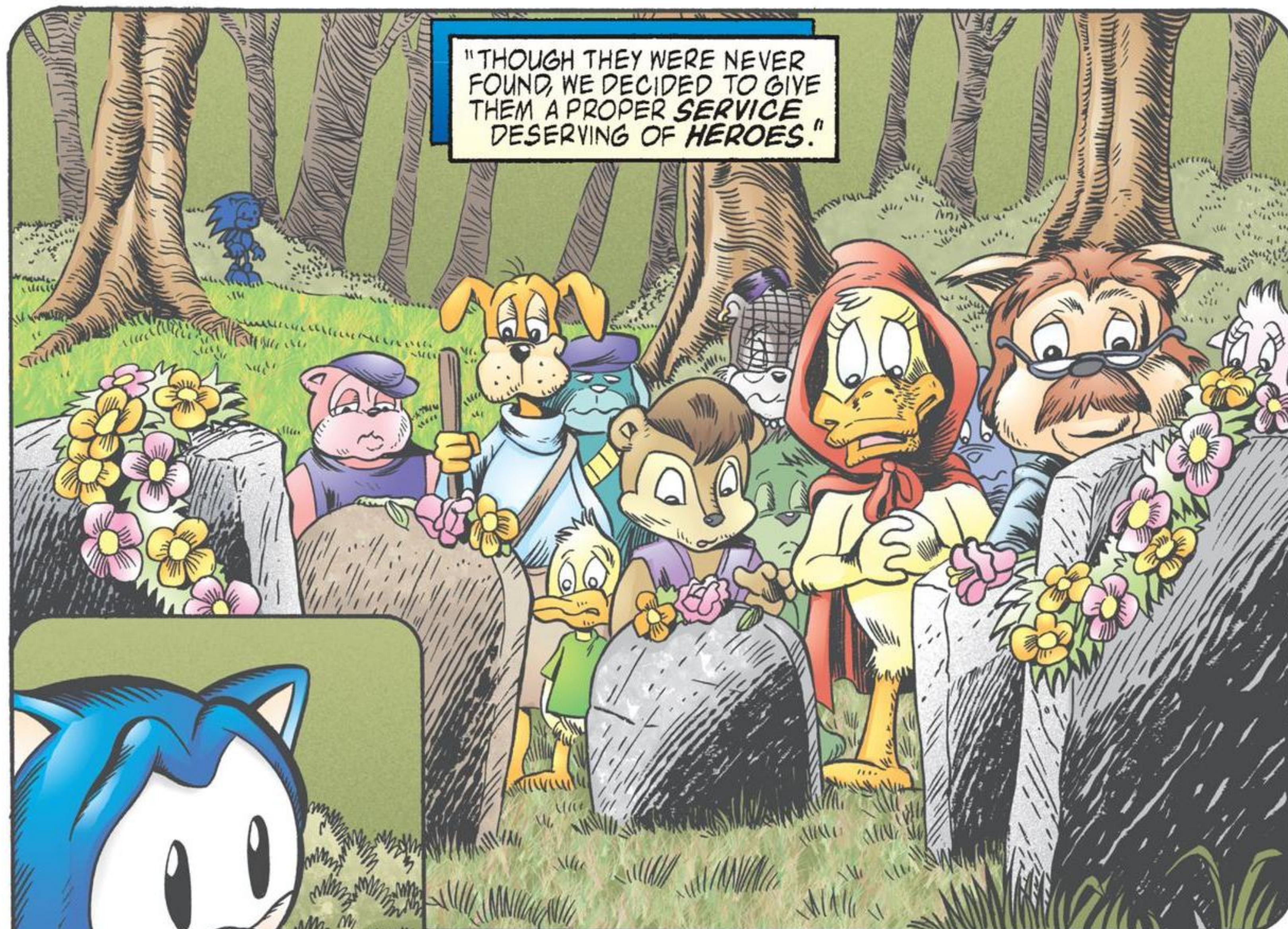


"UNCLE CHUCK WITNESSED
THE WHOLE THING AND
RECORDED IT TO HIS
MEMORY WHEN HE WAS STILL
ROBOTICIZED."

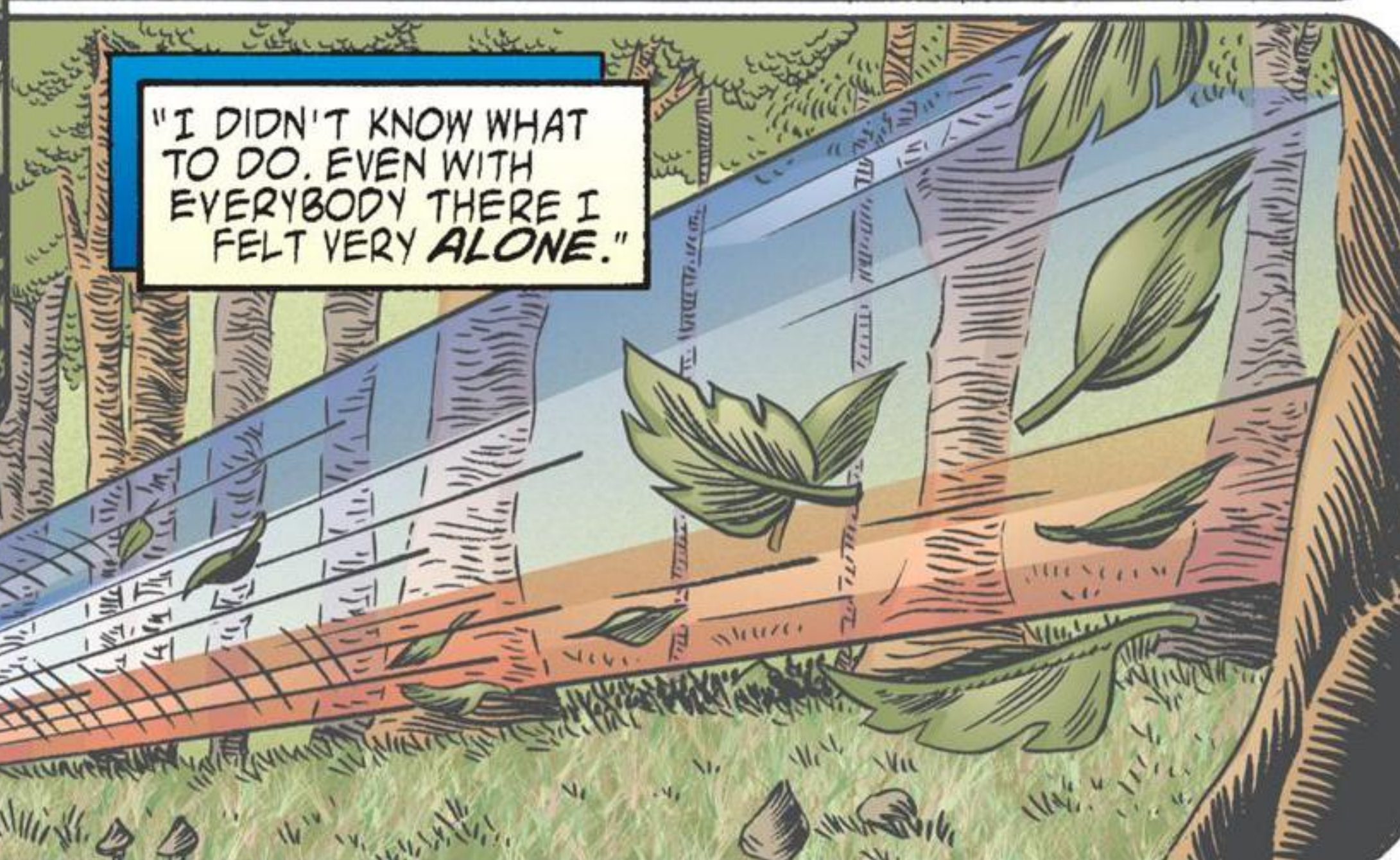


"IT TOOK **YEARS** FOR UNCLE CHUCK TO BREAK OUT OF ROBOTNIK'S PROGRAMMING. AT THE TIME, ALL THESE DETAILS WERE HIDDEN."

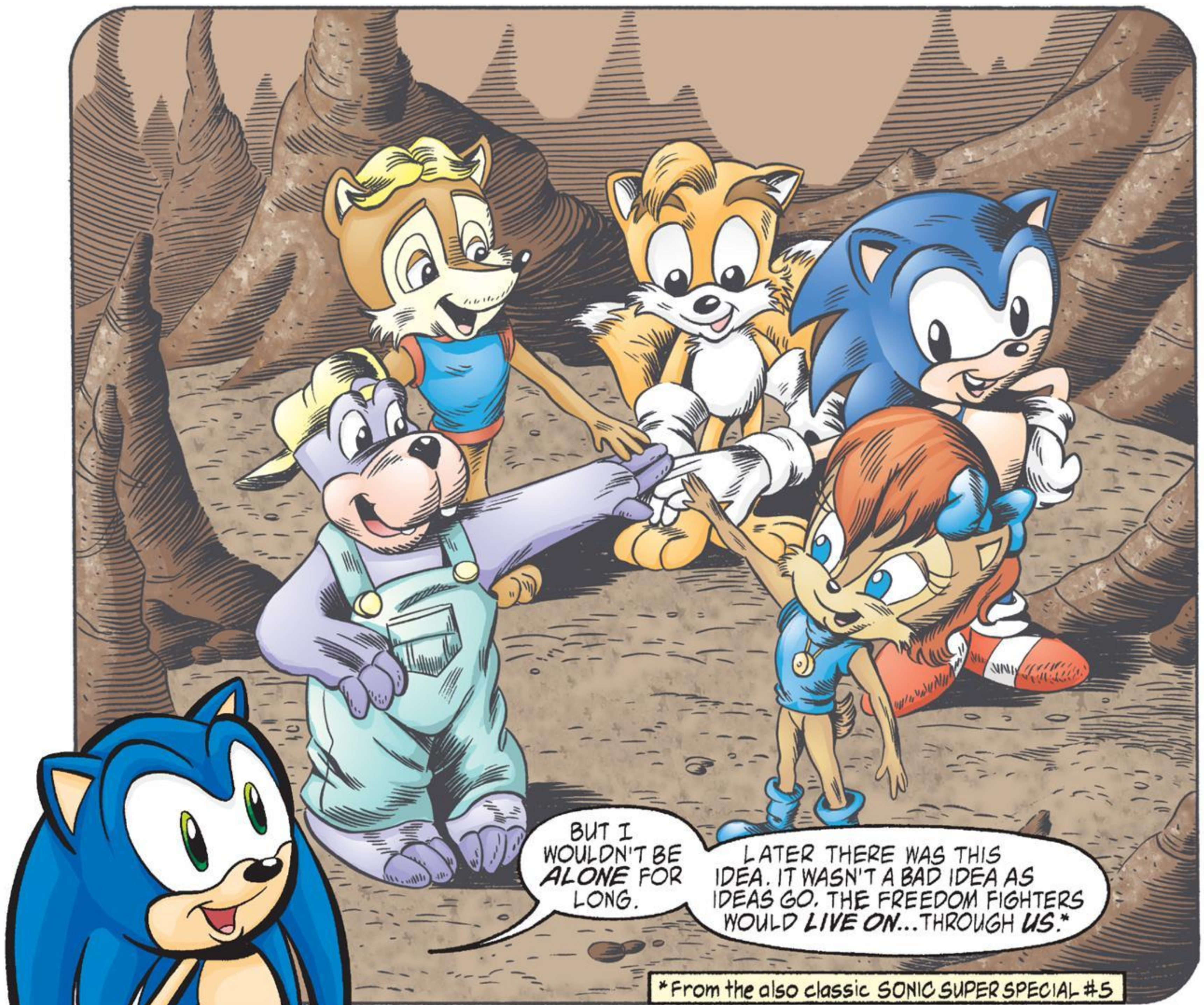
"ALL WE **KNEW** WAS THAT OUR... **THEY WERE GONE.**"



"THOUGH THEY WERE NEVER FOUND, WE DECIDED TO GIVE THEM A PROPER **SERVICE** DESERVING OF **HEROES.**"



"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. EVEN WITH EVERYBODY THERE I FELT VERY **ALONE.**"



BUT I
WOULDN'T BE
ALONE FOR
LONG.

LATER THERE WAS THIS
IDEA. IT WASN'T A BAD IDEA AS
IDEAS GO. THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
WOULD **LIVE ON...THROUGH US.***

*From the also classic SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #5



AND THE
REST, AS THEY
SAY, IS
HISTORY.



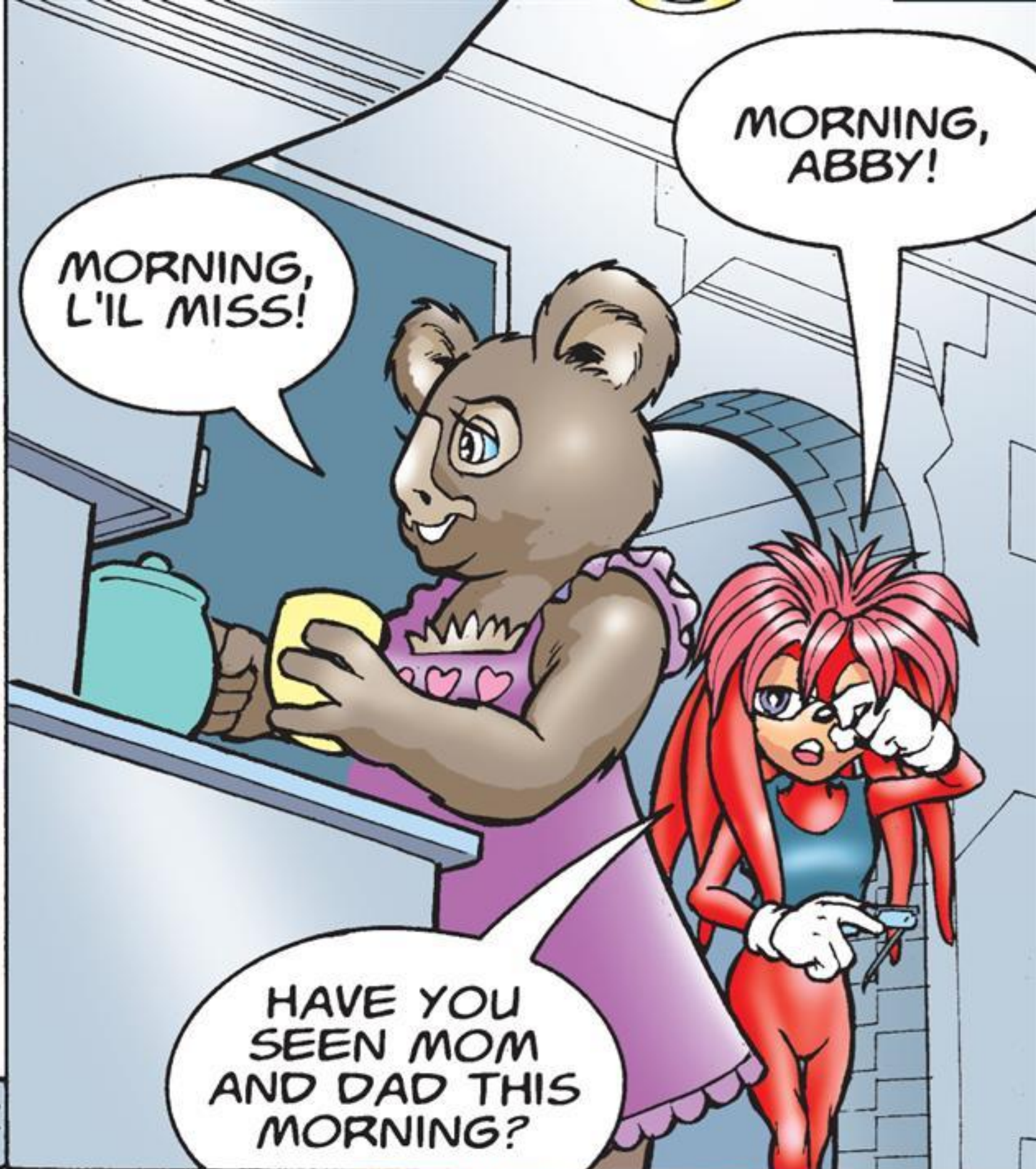
HISTORY...? THAT
REMINDS ME, I **HAVE** TO
WRITE THIS PAPER FOR
SCHOOL TOMORROW.
GOTTA GO. BYE... AND
THANKS.

WAIT!
YOU SAID
YOU'D
STAY!



SHE'S
FASTER
THAN I
THOUGHT...

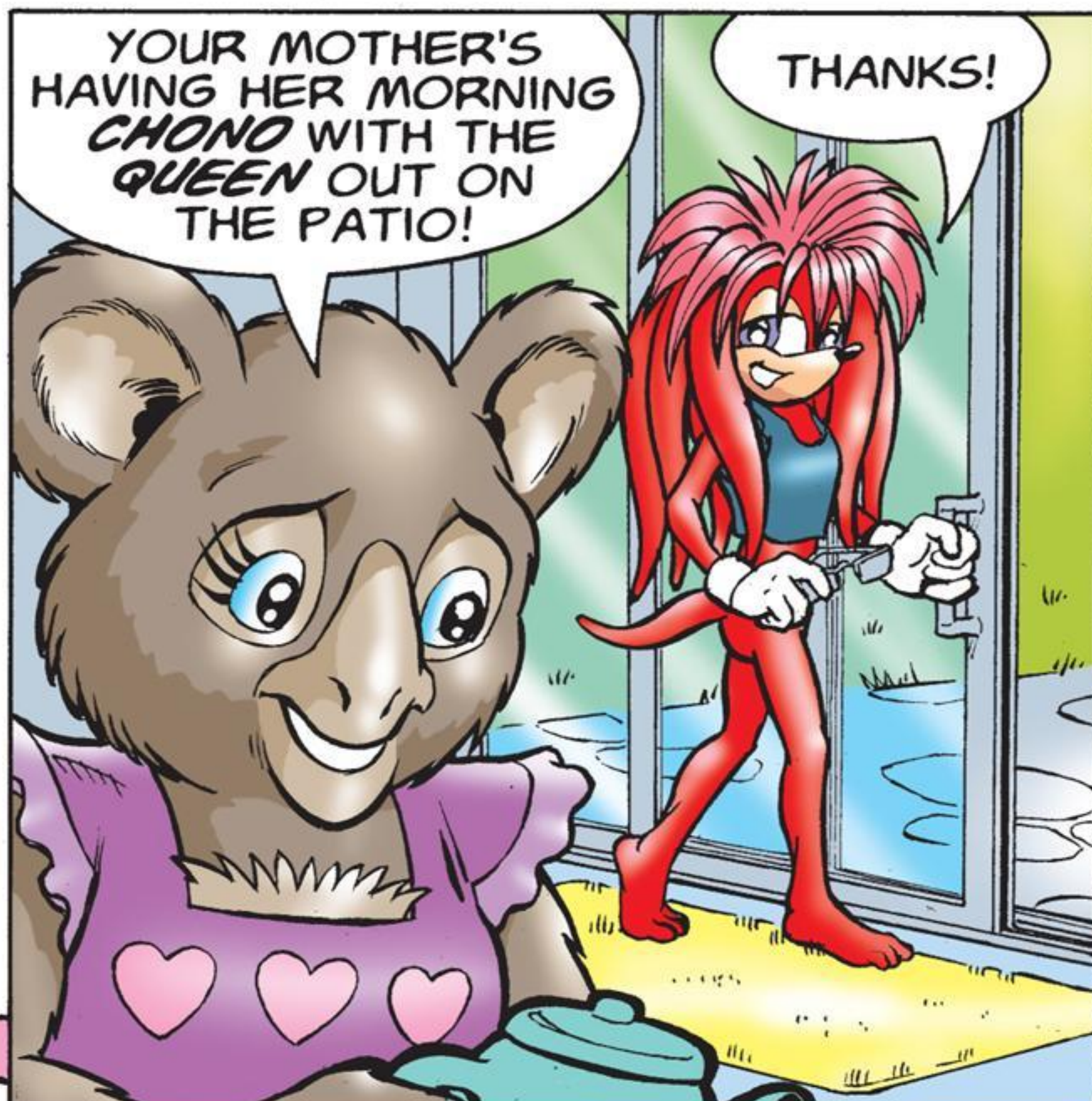
I HATE
WAITING.
GROAN~



MORNING,
L'IL MISS!

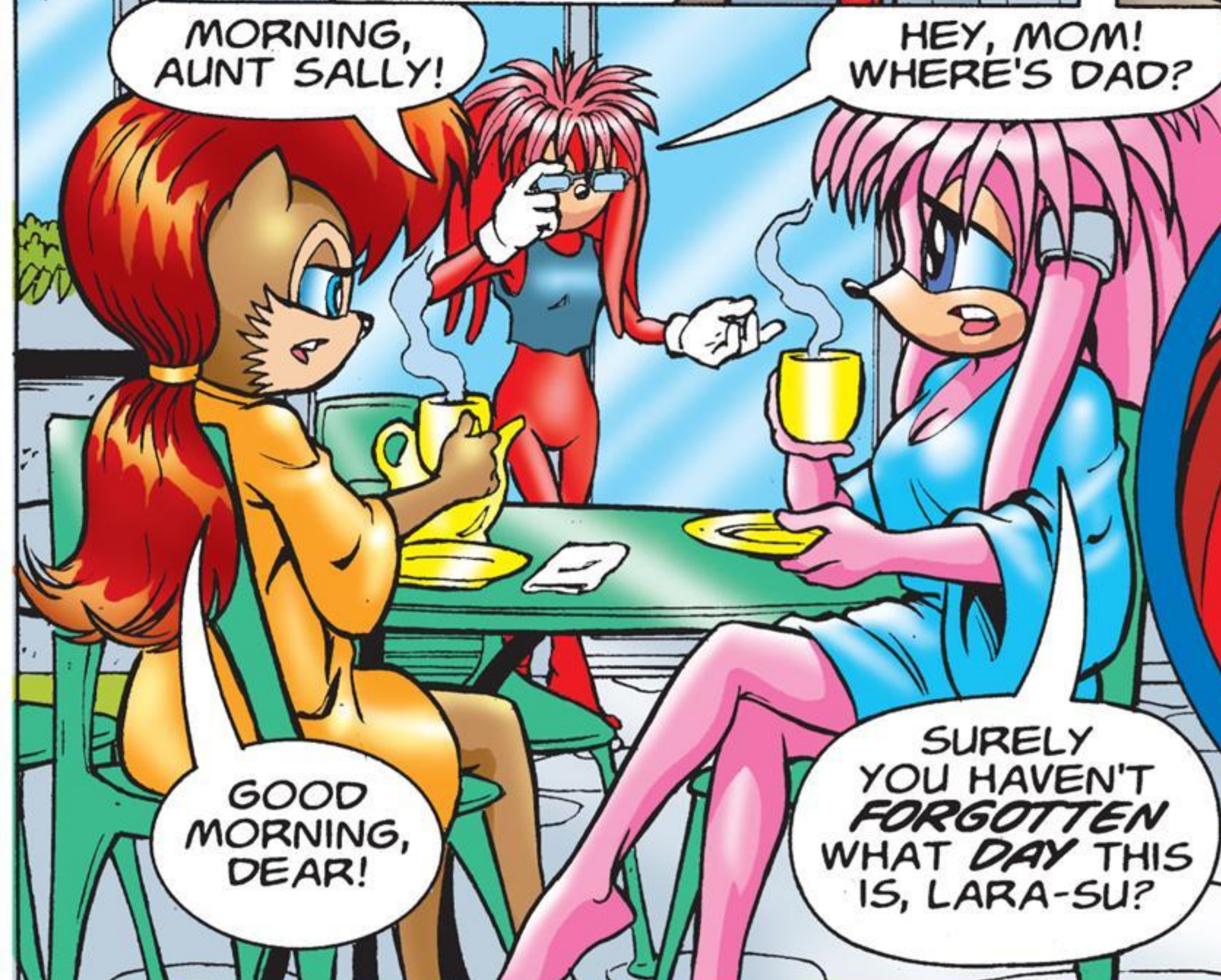
MORNING,
ABBY!

HAVE YOU
SEEN MOM
AND DAD THIS
MORNING?



YOUR MOTHER'S
HAVING HER MORNING
CHONO WITH THE
QUEEN OUT ON
THE PATIO!

THANKS!



MORNING,
AUNT SALLY!

HEY, MOM!
WHERE'S DAD?

GOOD
MORNING,
DEAR!

SURELY
YOU HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
WHAT **DAY** THIS
IS, LARA-SU?

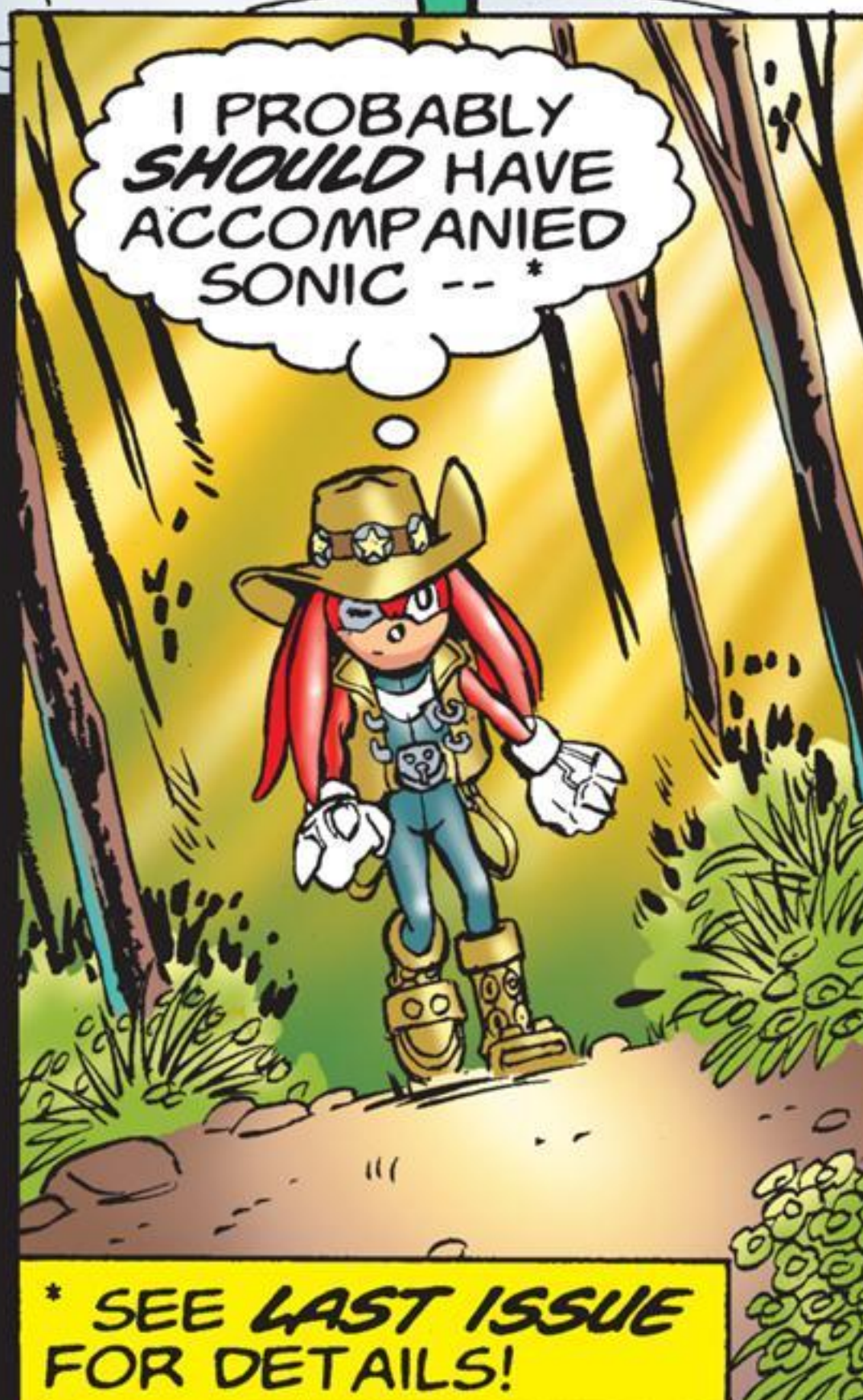


OH!

THAT'S
RIGHT!



"SORRY!"



I PROBABLY
SHOULD HAVE
ACCOMPANIED
SONIC -- *

* SEE LAST ISSUE
FOR DETAILS!



-- BUT
WHAT **CHOICE**
DO I HAVE?

INDUBIJS 25 YEARS LATER

ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T HAVE
ANY CHOICE AT ALL.
NOT ON TODAY OF ALL
DAYS...

STILL SEEMS
LIKE ONLY
YESTERDAY --

FATHER'S Day CHAPTER ONE

GATHER 'ROUND NOW FOR THE MOST
POIGNANT CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA BY

KEN PENDERS - SCRIPT, ART &
LETTERING

JASON JENSEN - COLORIST

" -- WHEN I TRAVELED WITH **ARCHIMEDES** BACK TO
THE SITE WHERE **ANGEL ISLAND** CAME FROM... "

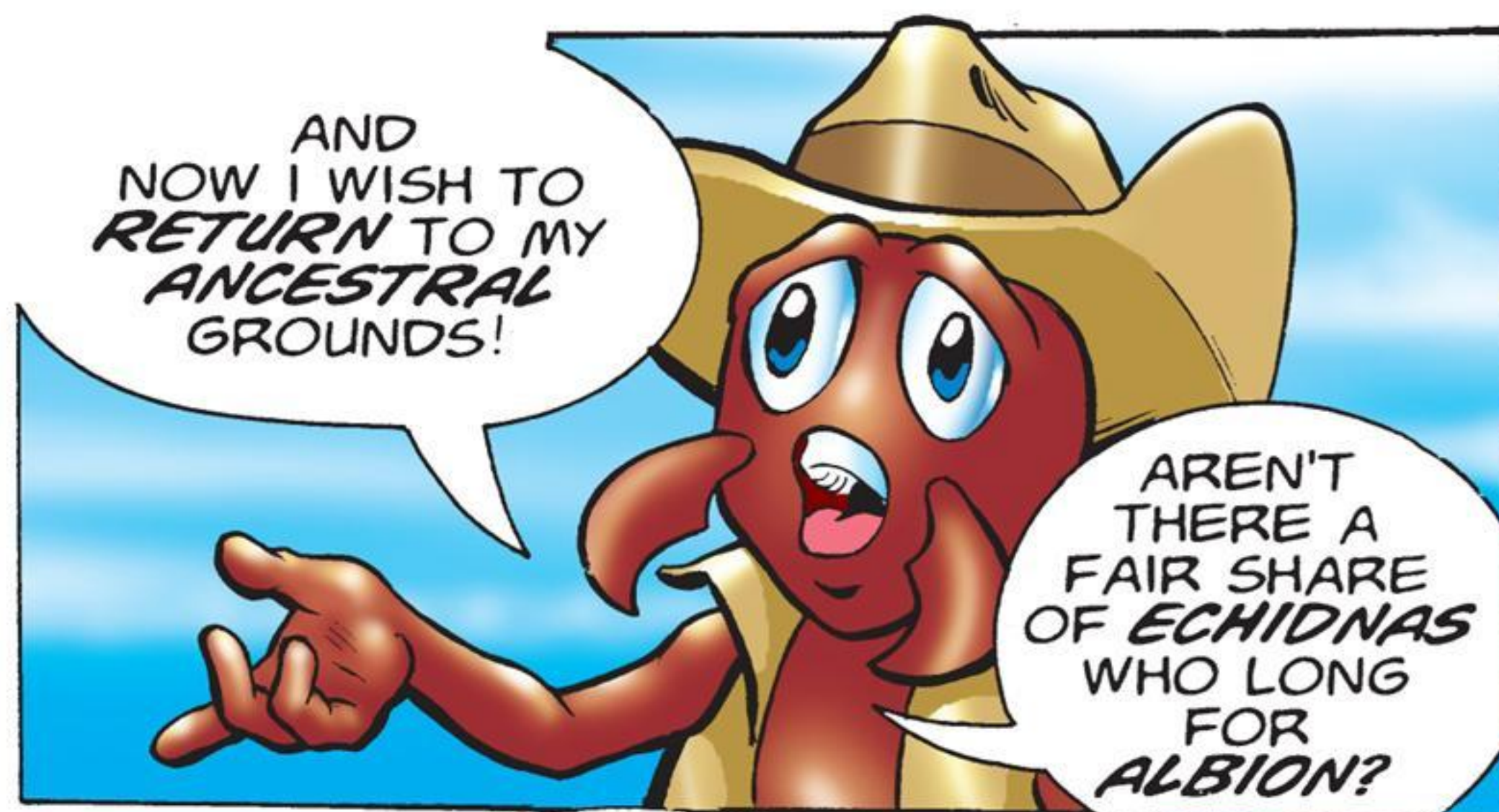
I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU'RE
DOING THIS!

I
MEAN --

-- YOU'VE
LIVED ON THE
ISLAND YOUR
WHOLE LIFE!

M'BOY, I'M
GOING TO MISS
YOU TERRIBLY, AS
I'VE TRULY ENJOYED
YOUR COMPANY
THESE PAST FEW
WEEKS!





AND NOW I WISH TO RETURN TO MY ANCESTRAL GROUNDS!

AREN'T THERE A FAIR SHARE OF *ECHIDNAS* WHO LONG FOR *ALBION*?



ATHAIR DARED TO DREAM! MAYBE YOU SHOULD AS WELL!

YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN YOUR *FIRST* STEP!

HUH?

BAMF!

BAMF!



I SUPPOSE.

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT BIT EITHER!

I CAN'T IMAGINE LIVING ANYWHERE BUT ANGEL ISLAND!



YEAH! SO?

IF YOU ADHERE TO THAT *DECISION*, YOU'D BE MAKING A CLEAR *BREAK* FROM THE *PAST*!

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU'RE UP TO DEALING WITH THE *REPERCUSSIONS*?



DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT SAY THE *GUARDIANSHIP* SHOULD END WITH YOU?

THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANY CHILDREN OF YOURS TO *FOLLOW* IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS?

NOTHING'S *EVER* COME EASY BEFORE, ARCHI --

-- AND I DON'T *EXPECT* IT EVER WILL!

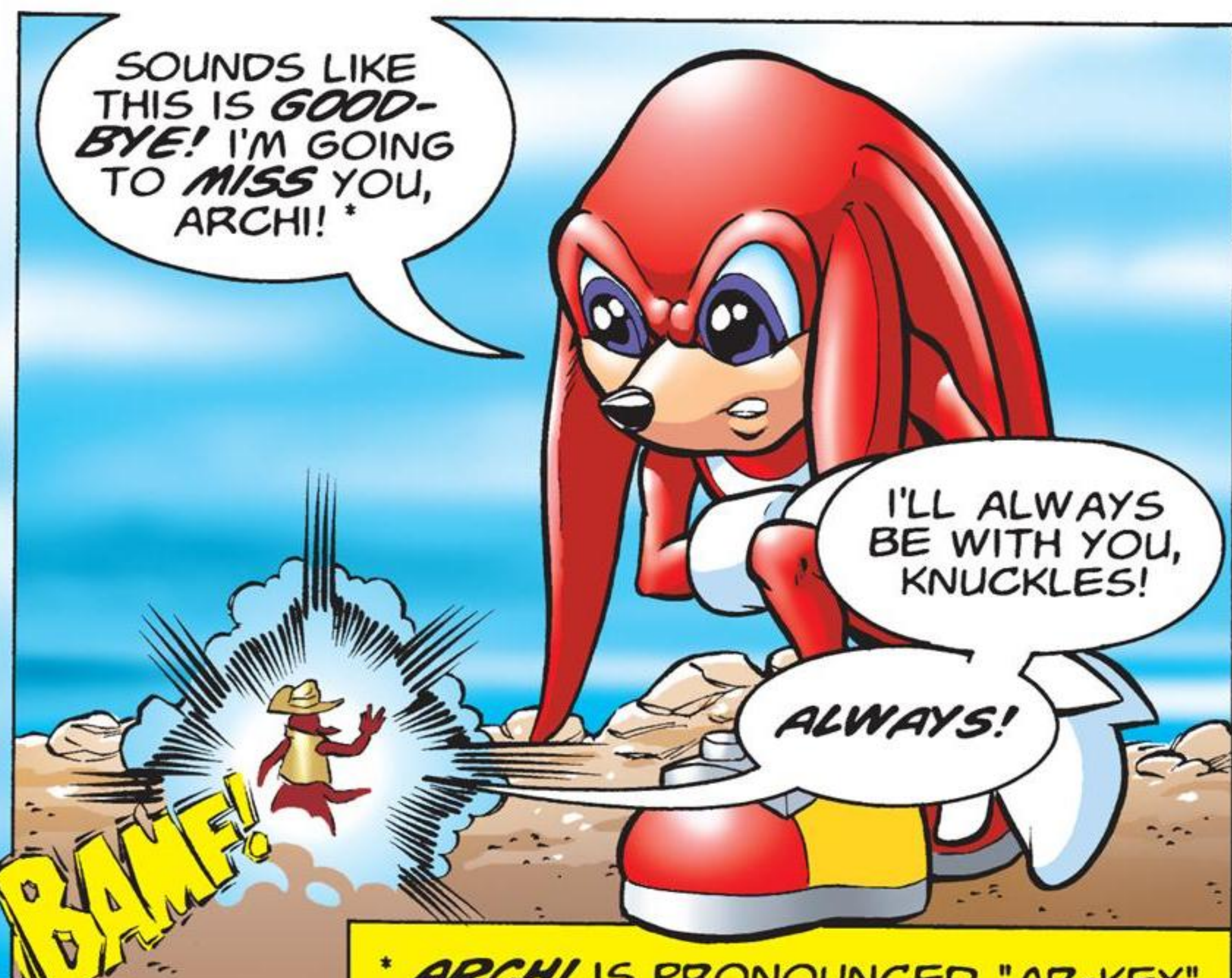
M'BOY --





-- I COULDN'T BE ANY **PROUDER** IF YOU WERE **MY OWN SON!**

YOU'VE **GROWN UP!**



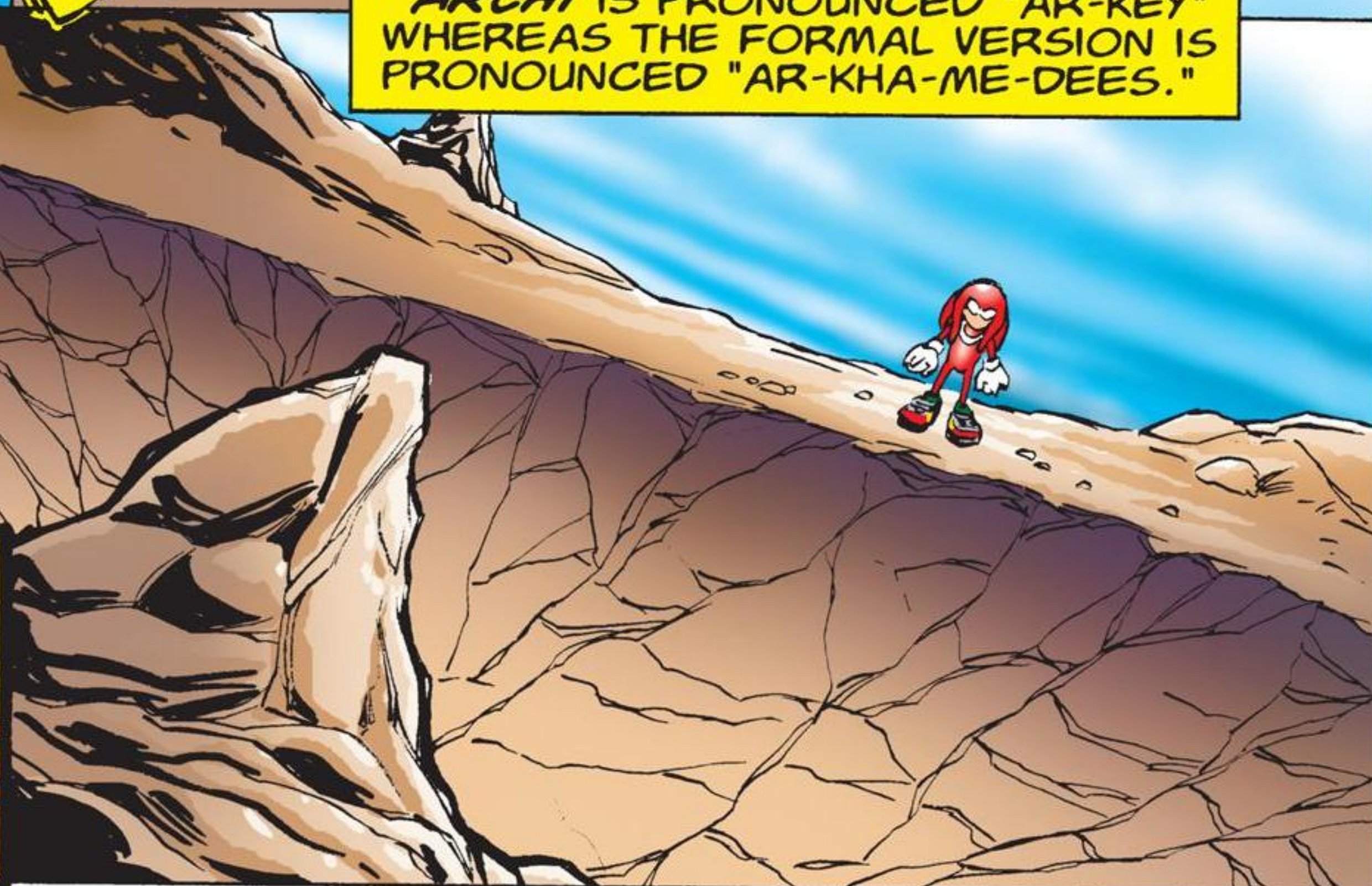
SOUNDS LIKE THIS IS **GOOD-BYE!** I'M GOING TO **MISS** YOU, **ARCHI!** *

I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, **KNUCKLES!**

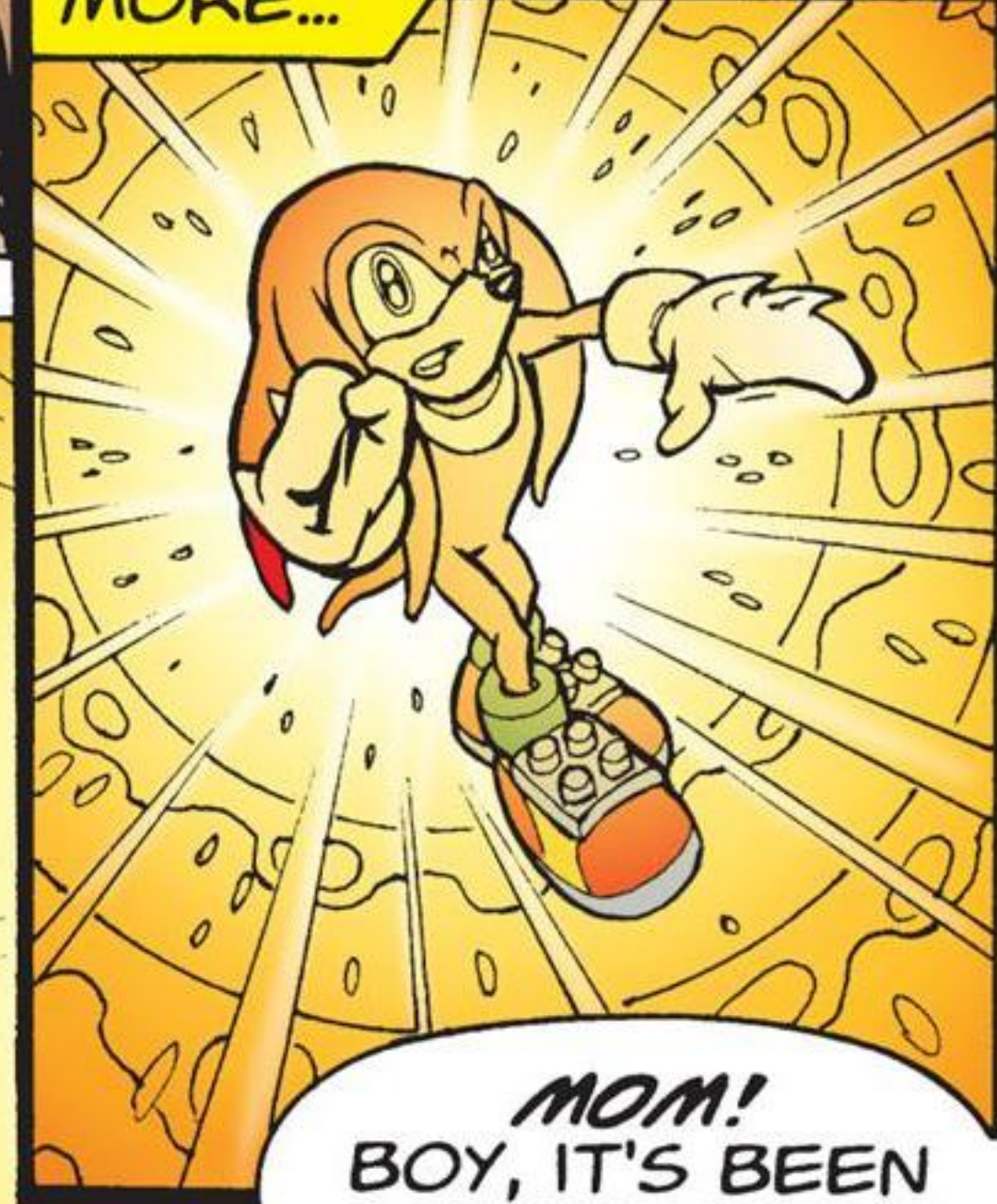
ALWAYS!

* **ARCHI** IS PRONOUNCED "AR-KEY" WHEREAS THE FORMAL VERSION IS PRONOUNCED "AR-KHA-ME-DEES."

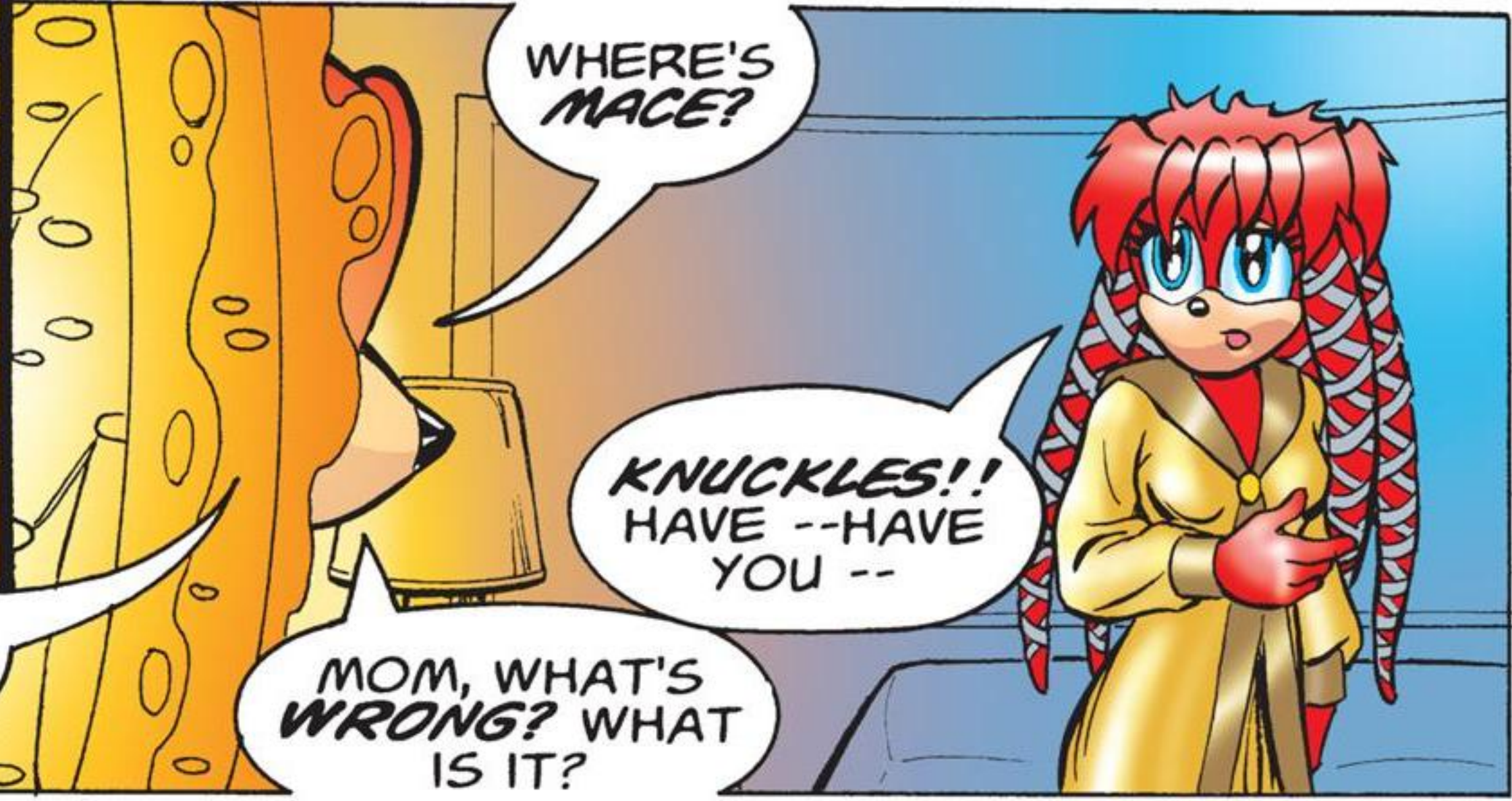
"I JUST STOOD THERE, NUMB WITH A SENSE OF **LOSS**, AND WONDERING IF I'D EVER SEE HIM AGAIN..."



"AFTER AWHILE, I USED THE **GUIDING STAR GEM** TO RETURN TO ANGEL ISLAND ONCE " MORE..."



MOM! BOY, IT'S BEEN AWHILE, HASN'T IT?



WHERE'S **MACE?**

KNUCKLES!! HAVE --HAVE YOU --

MOM, WHAT'S **WRONG?** WHAT IS IT?



IT'S YOUR **FATHER**, HONEY!

HE'S NOT -- DOING TOO WELL!

WHAT DO YOU **MEAN**, "NOT DOING WELL"?

"MOM COULDN'T BRING HERSELF TO ACTUALLY SAY WHAT WAS UP WITH DAD, SO **WYNMACHER** TOOK CHARGE AT THAT POINT..."

I THINK IT BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF WE TOOK A RIDE UPTOWN!

CABBIE!!

WHERE TO, YOUR LORDSHIP?

ALBION GENERAL, MY GOOD MAN!

THE HOSPITAL? DAD'S THERE?!

TO PUT IT AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE, SON, YOUR FATHER HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL IN SOME TIME -- "

-- AND WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT EXACTLY HIS PROBLEM IS!

BUT DAD WAS DOING *GREAT* WHEN I *LAST* SAW HIM!

"NOBODY SAID A WORD AFTER THAT UNTIL WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL -- "

" -- WHERE WE MET WITH **DOCTOR SHOCKRA**..."

SO YOU'RE THE **GUARDIAN**! YOUR FATHER MUST BE *VERY PROUD*!

LOOK, DOC, I DON'T WANT TO SEEM *RUDE* --

-- BUT I'D RATHER HEAR ABOUT MY DAD!

IN A NUTSHELL, **EVERY** TEST WE'VE RUN HAS COME UP **NEGATIVE!**

BY EVERY STANDARD OF MEASURE, HE SHOULD BE **ABLE** TO JUST GET UP AND WALK OUT OF HERE **ON HIS OWN!**

BUT -- ?

HIS WEIGHT IS **DOWN**, HIS **STAMINA** CLEARLY NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE, AND HE'S IN **CONSTANT PAIN!**

SO CAN YOU **FIX** HIM?

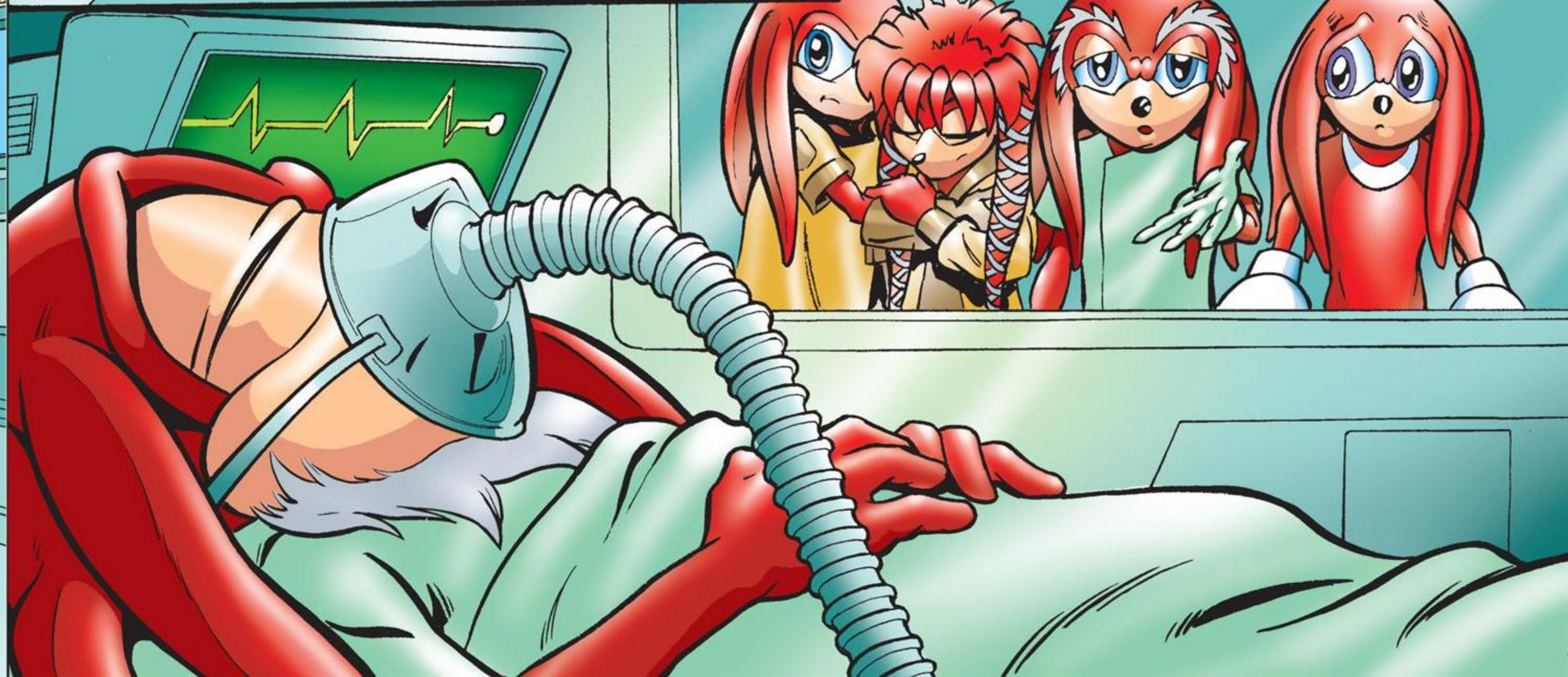
WE HAVE **TWO** OPTIONS -- ONE: WE CAN KEEP RUNNING TESTS IN THE **HOPE** SOMETHING TURNS UP --

-- OR TWO: WE CAN PERFORM **SURGERY!**

BUT IF WE DO THAT, WE COULD **SPEED UP** THE PROCESS!

PROCESS?
WHAT PROCESS, DOC?

YOUR FATHER'S **DYING!**



FATHER'S DAY

CHAPTER TWO

"SINCE DAD WASN'T CLEARLY OF SOUND MIND AT THE TIME, AS HIS *CLOSEST* RELATIVE, THE DOCS TURNED TO *ME* FOR *PERMISSION* TO PERFORM *EXPLORATORY SURGERY*."

GUARDIAN?

"AND SINCE *MOM* WAS A *MESS* -- CRYING ONE MINUTE, ANGRY THE NEXT -- I HAD *NO ONE* TO TURN TO. NOT WYNMACHER. NOT MY GRANDFATHER SABRE. AND *MACE* WAS TOO YOUNG."

"SO I HAD TO MAKE THE CALL."

"IT SEEMED LIKE A *LIFETIME* AGO WHEN THE *DOCTOR* CAME TO GIVE HIS *PROGNOSIS*..."

YEAH?

YOUR FATHER HAS A *CARCINOGENIC* PANCREAS.

THERE'S *NOTHING* MORE WE CAN DO. I'M *SORRY*.

IS -- IS THAT IT?

HIM MAKING IT TO *ASCENSION DAY** WOULD BE ABOUT THE BEST ONE COULD HOPE FOR!

BUT THERE ARE NO *GUARANTEES* OF EVEN THAT!

* *ECHIDNA HOLIDAY* COMMEMORATING WHEN *ANGEL ISLAND* WENT SKYBORN AND AVERTED CERTAIN DESTRUCTION.

"SO DAD HAD *MAYBE NINE MONTHS* AT MOST, AND THAT WAS ONLY A BEST CASE SCENARIO!"

"WHICH LEFT ONLY ONE OTHER QUESTION THAT *NEEDED* TO BE ASKED --"

HOW DID DAD -- I MEAN --

THAT'S ANOTHER *MYSTERY*!

WE SURMISE YOUR FATHER WAS AT SOME POINT *EXPOSED* TO A *TOXIC* SUBSTANCE WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT!

IT COULD HAVE BEEN RECENTLY -- OR *DECADES* AGO!

WHEN CAN WE SEE MY DAD?

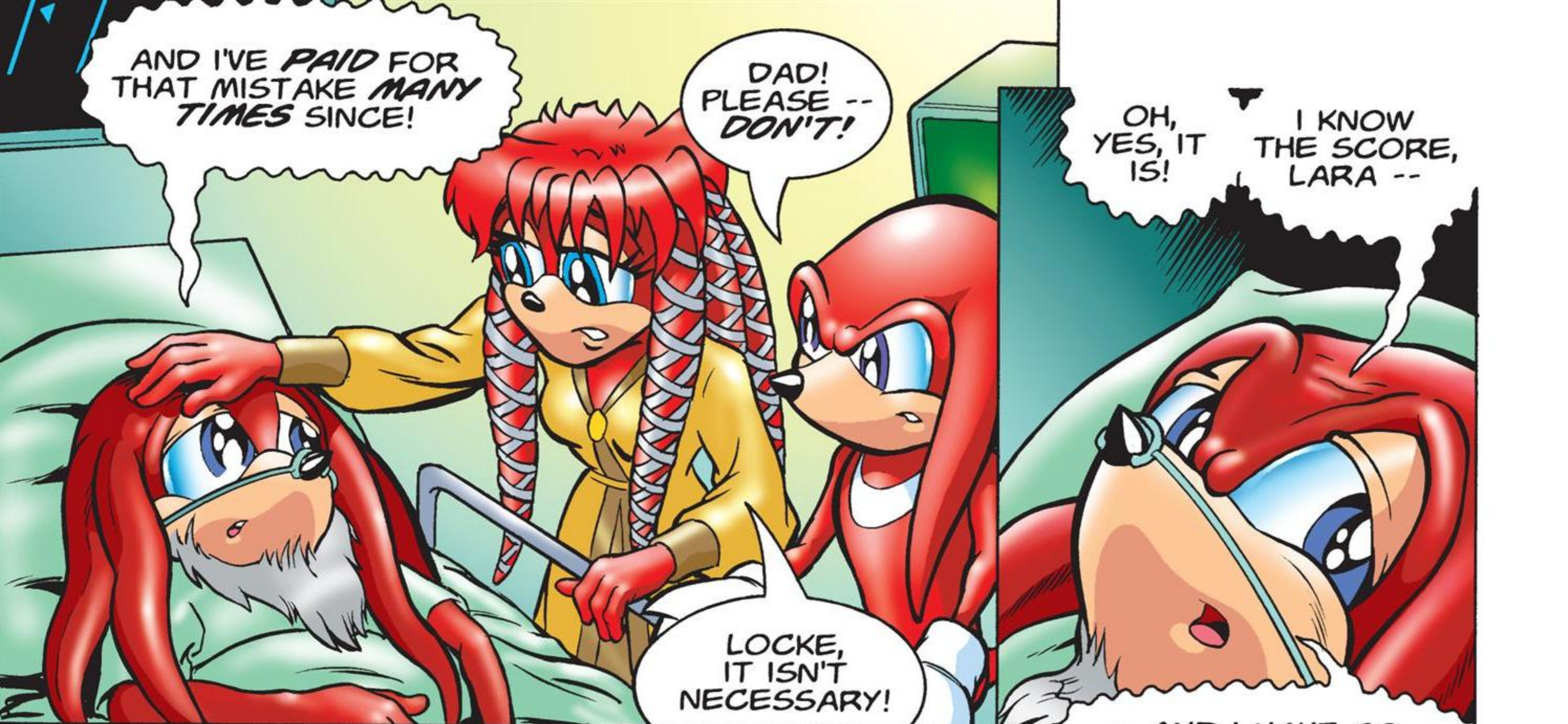
LOCKE SHOULD *AWAKEN* IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. AFTER THAT, IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED IN THE MEANTIME, JUST TELL THE NURSES!

YEAH! THANKS, DOC!







AND I'VE *PAID* FOR THAT MISTAKE *MANY TIMES* SINCE!

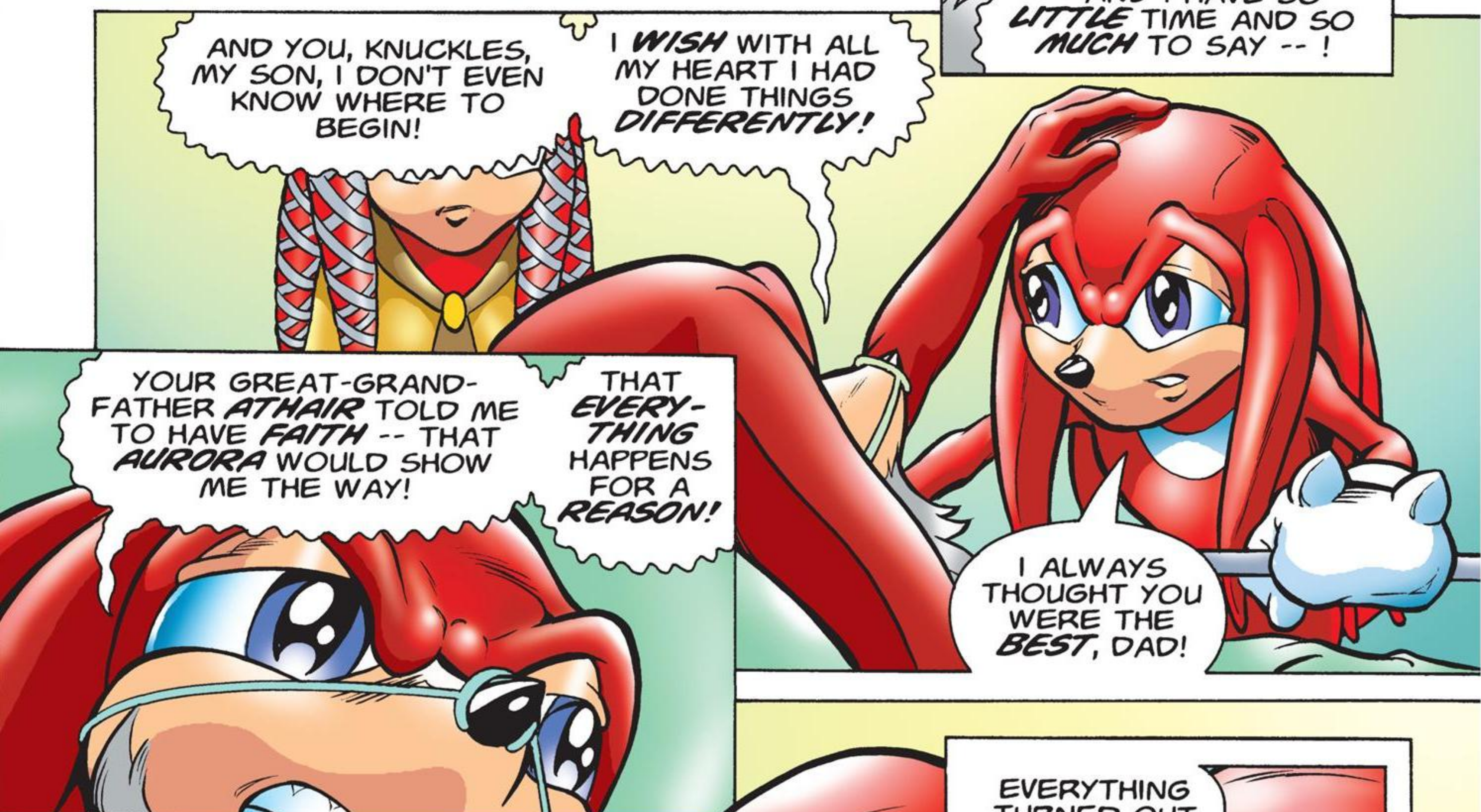
DAD! PLEASE -- *DON'T!*

LOCKE, IT ISN'T NECESSARY!

OH, YES, IT IS!

I KNOW THE SCORE, LARA --

-- AND I HAVE SO *LITTLE* TIME AND SO *MUCH* TO SAY -- !



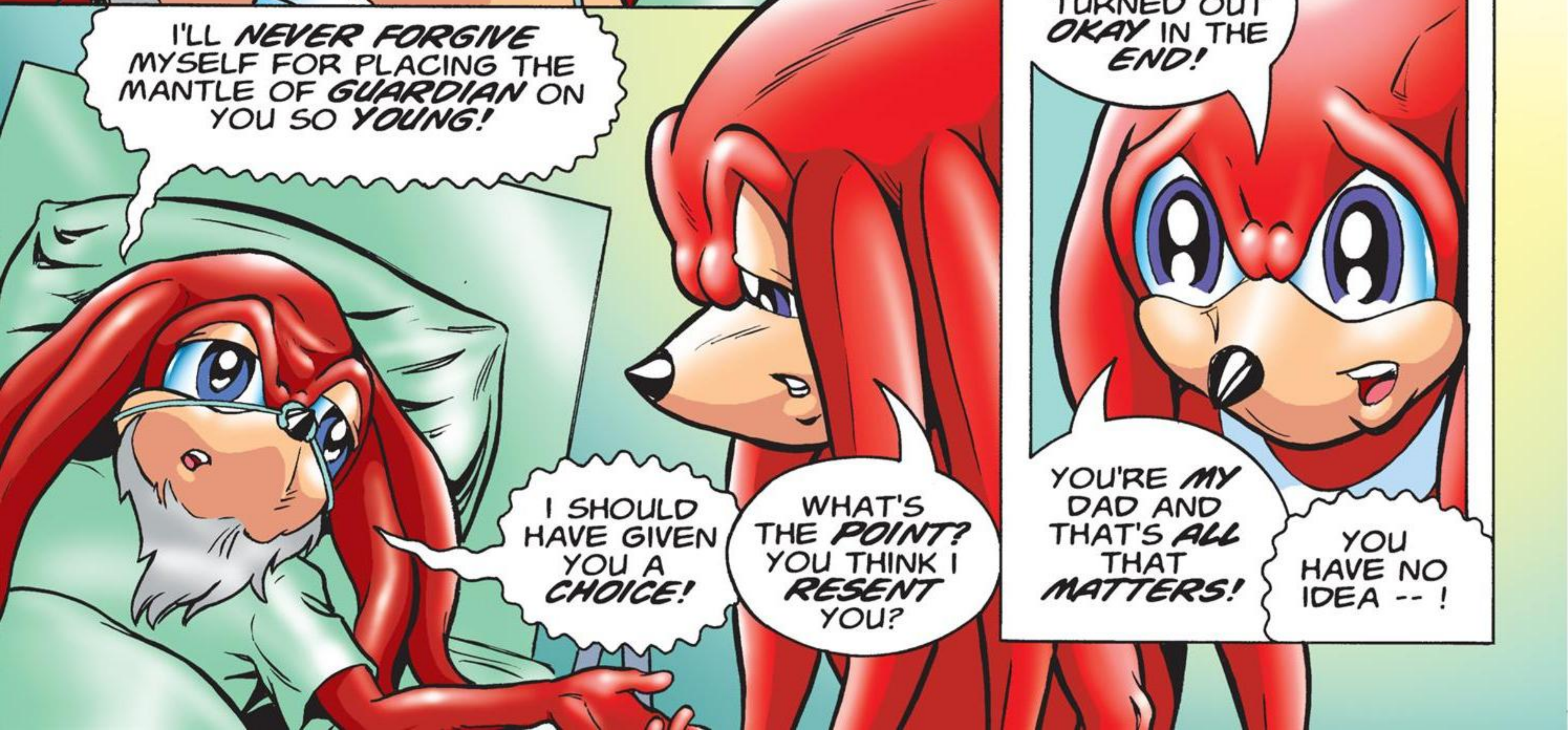
AND YOU, KNUCKLES, MY SON, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!

I *WISH* WITH ALL MY HEART I HAD DONE THINGS *DIFFERENTLY!*

YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER *ATHAIR* TOLD ME TO HAVE *FAITH* -- THAT *AURORA* WOULD SHOW ME THE WAY!

THAT *EVERY-THING* HAPPENS FOR A *REASON!*

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE THE *BEST*, DAD!



I'LL *NEVER* FORGIVE MYSELF FOR PLACING THE MANTLE OF *GUARDIAN* ON YOU SO *YOUNG!*

EVERYTHING TURNED OUT *OKAY* IN THE *END!*

I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A *CHOICE!*

WHAT'S THE *POINT?* YOU THINK I *RESENT* YOU?

YOU'RE *MY* DAD AND THAT'S *ALL* THAT *MATTERS!*

YOU HAVE NO IDEA -- !



I LISTENED TO A *VOICE* -- FOLLOWED THE *TEACHINGS* OF THOSE *BEFORE* ME --

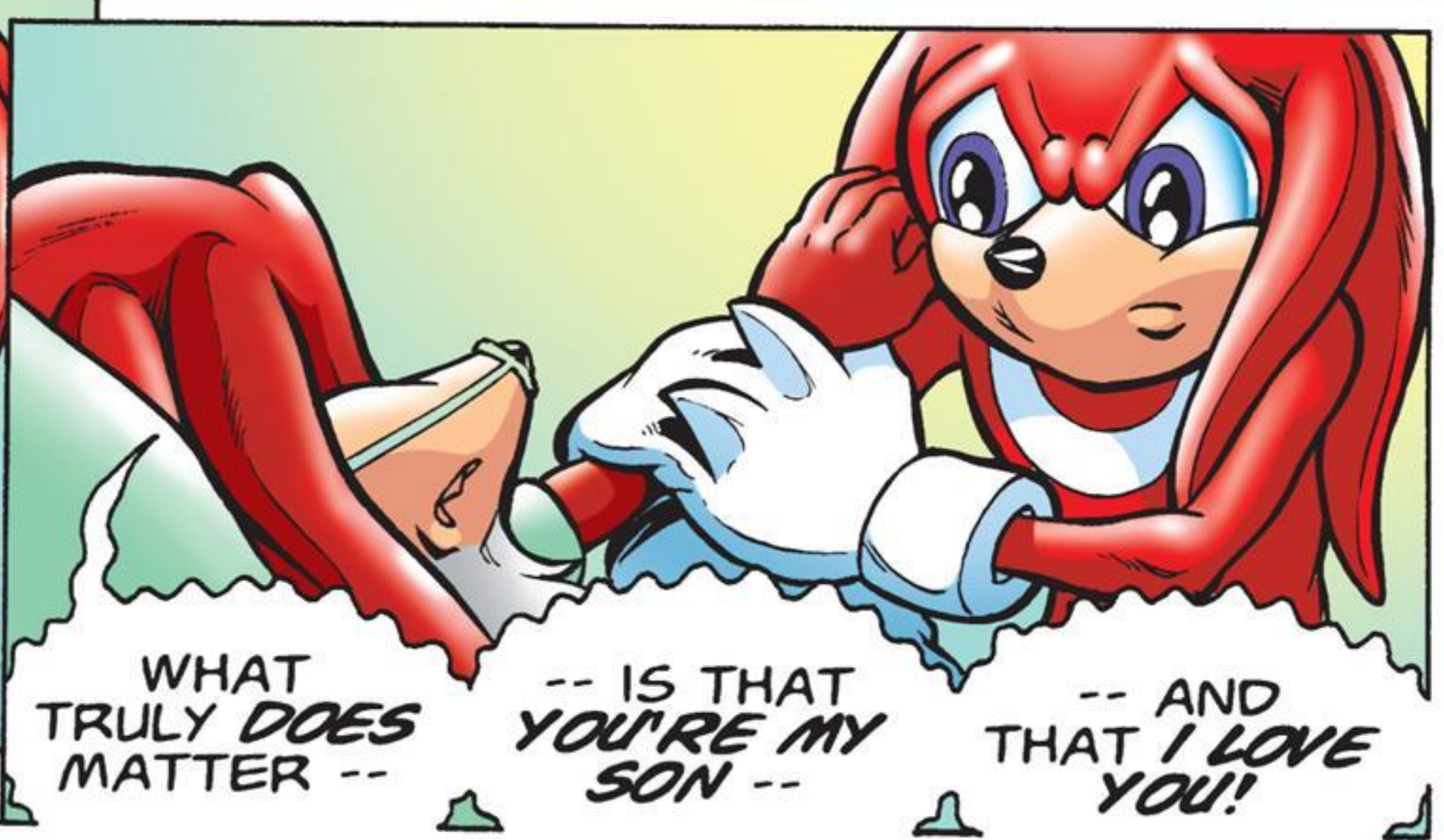
-- THAT ALL SAID *YOU* WERE MEANT TO *BREAK* THE CYCLE --



-- YOUR DESTINY *GREATER* THAN ANY WHO CAME *BEFORE* YOU --

I THOUGHT *THAT* MATTERED *ABOVE* ALL ELSE --

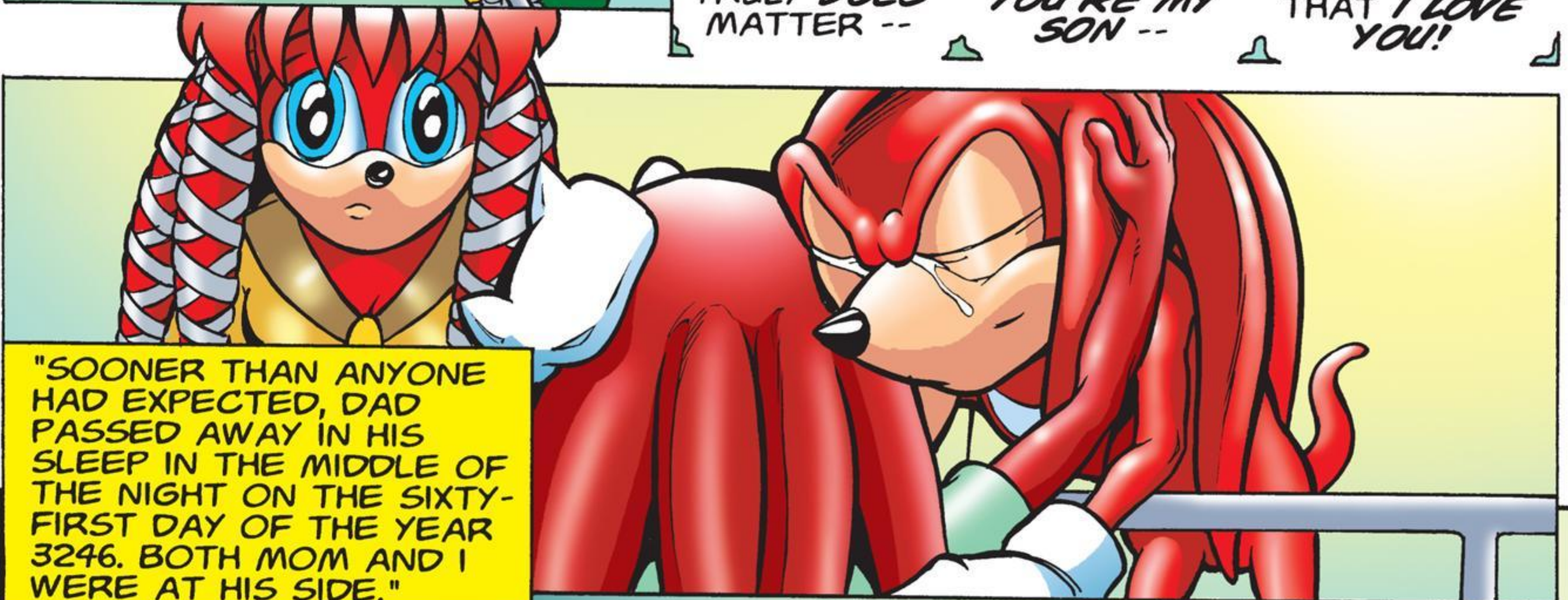
-- BUT I *KNOW* NOW THAT WAS *WRONG!*



WHAT *TRULY DOES* MATTER --

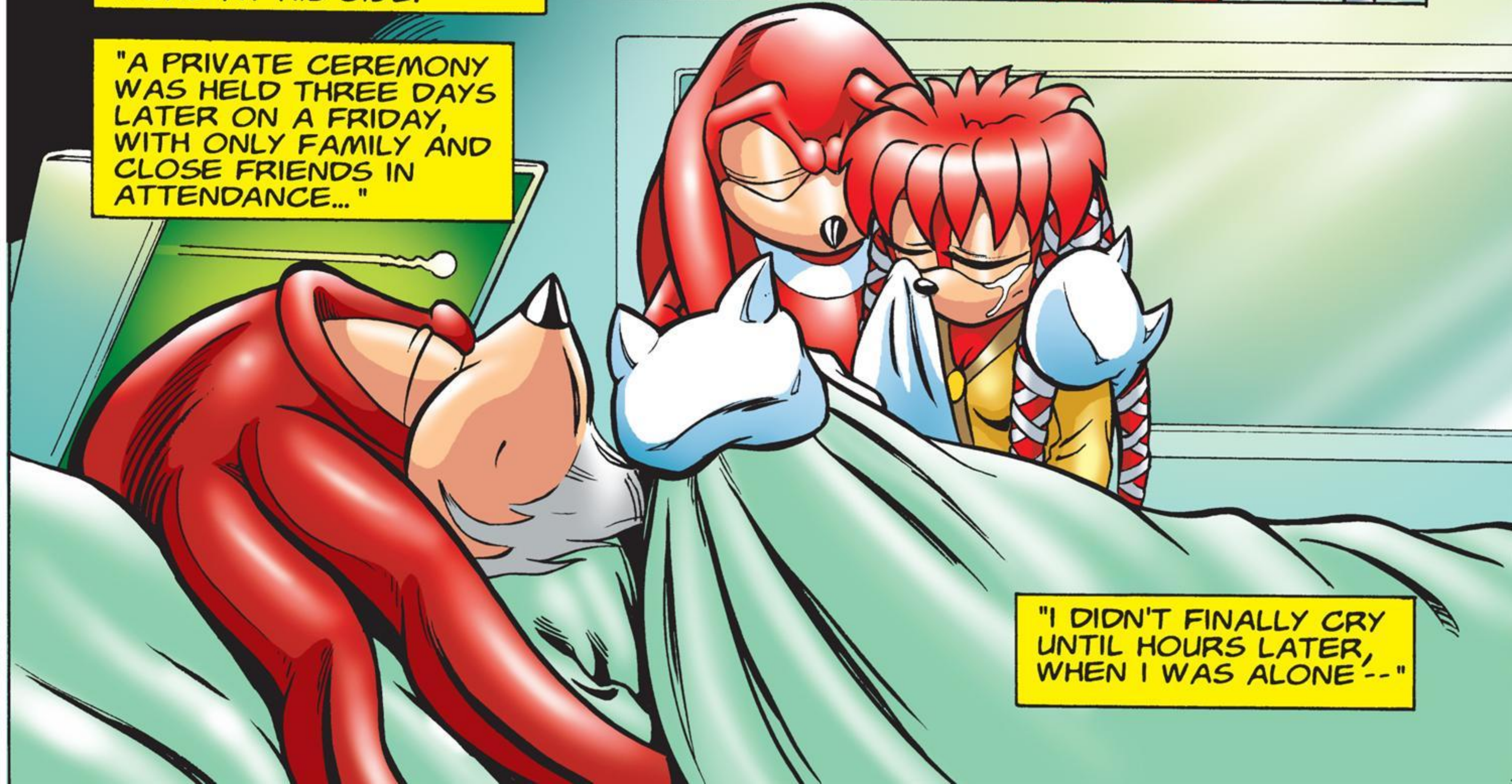
-- IS THAT *YOU'RE MY SON* --

-- AND THAT *I LOVE YOU!*



"SOONER THAN ANYONE HAD EXPECTED, DAD PASSED AWAY IN HIS SLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ON THE SIXTY-FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR 3246. BOTH MOM AND I WERE AT HIS SIDE."

"A PRIVATE CEREMONY WAS HELD THREE DAYS LATER ON A FRIDAY, WITH ONLY FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS IN ATTENDANCE..."



"I DIDN'T FINALLY CRY UNTIL HOURS LATER, WHEN I WAS ALONE..."

-- AND I
COULDN'T STOP
FOR WELL OVER
AN HOUR!

IT WAS LIKE
EVERYTHING I
HAD CAME
POURING OUT
OF ME!

AND NOW I'VE
COME BACK,
DAD --

•LOCKE•
BELOVED
FATHER
AND
SOULMATE

-- AS I
ALWAYS
DO!

I SEE MOM
STILL BRINGS
FLOWERS!

PROBABLY NOT
MUCH LONGER,
THOUGH! HER AND
WYN HAVE BEEN
TALKING ABOUT
MOVING TO
ALBION!

YOU MUST
REALLY BE
SMILING
RIGHT NOW!

IT JUST
OCCURRED TO
ME LATELY HOW
WELL YOU DID
YOUR **JOB**!

I WAS SO
DETERMINED NOT
TO REPEAT YOUR
ACTIONS THAT I
FOUND OTHER
WAYS TO DO THEM
INSTEAD!

JUST LIKE YOU
GAVE ME NO CHOICE
IN **BECOMING** A
GUARDIAN, I WAS SET
ON **PREVENTING**
YOUR GRAND-
DAUGHTER FROM
GOING THROUGH
WHAT I DID!

AND
THAT'S JUST
AS **WRONG**,
TOO!

I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND
HOW DIFFERENT
THINGS ARE AS A
PARENT FROM
WHEN YOU'RE
A **KID**!



SO I'M GOING
TO GIVE HER THE
CHOICE YOU DIDN'T
GIVE ME -- THE
CHOICE *YOU*
WEREN'T GIVEN
EITHER, DAD!

IT ONLY
TOOK UNTIL *NOW*
FOR ME TO
REALIZE THAT,
AS WELL!

I ONLY
WISH --

-- YOU
WERE HERE
FOR ME TO
SHARE THAT
WITH!